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Inter-Arab Affairs

Arab League Chief Receives UK's Rifkind

NC1111115895 Cairo MENA in Arabic
1124 GMT 11 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 11 Nov (MENA)—Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid today received British Foreign Secretary Malcolm Rifkind, who is currently visiting Egypt. After the meeting, Rifkind said that he and Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid discussed the peace process in the Middle East and regional developments. He noted that he heard Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid's views of the peace process.

In response to a question on his talks in Syria and Israel, Rifkind said that his current tour is aimed at activating the peace process, noting that there are possibilities for stimulating Israeli-Syrian negotiations. He expressed his belief that these talks will possibly resume in the next stage.

Discusses Libya, Lockerbie, Iraq

NC1111132295 Cairo MENA in Arabic
1215 GMT 11 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 11 Nov (MENA)—In response to a question on Libya's offer of new information to Britain on the IRA and whether this would affect the British stance on the Libyan-Western crisis over Lockerbie, British Foreign Secretary Rifkind said that there are two points to consider: First, Libya provided important information on its previous contacts with the IRA and, second, related to Britain's clear stance on the Lockerbie issue: Libya must hand over the two Libyan citizens suspected of involvement in this terrorist act for trial. He voiced his hope that Libya will give a new response to this request.

Regarding the Arab League's decision on the Lockerbie crisis and its efforts to resolve it, Rifkind expressed his appreciation for the Arab League and the efforts being made by its Secretary General Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid in this issue. He stressed that Libya must adopt a positive stance on the Lockerbie crisis to set the issue in motion and end it.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid stated that his meeting with the British foreign secretary was useful and fruitful and provided an opportunity to review the situation in the Middle East and the peace process. He noted that the most important issues they discussed were the embargo imposed on the Iraqi people and the Lockerbie crisis. He pointed out that he explained to the British foreign secretary the Arab League's view of the peace process and its concern to continue it. He added that they discussed at length the Lockerbie crisis and the need to try the two suspects before a Scottish court, stressing that the Libyan stance is based on legal grounds consistent with international laws and norms.

Discussing Iraq, Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid said that the most important issue he discussed with Rifkind is implementing Security Council resolution 986, which permits Iraq to sell part of its oil and to use the revenue for humanitarian purposes and provide food to the Iraqi people.

Responding to a question on Iraq's rejection of this resolution, 'Abd-al-Majid said that Iraq rejects it from the stand point that it harms its sovereignty. He noted that he earlier discussed this issue with UN Secretary General Dr. Butrus-Ghali. He said that he thinks that if the resolution harms Iraqi sovereignty we will rule it out, but there is a possibility of concluding an agreement for a limited period of time. He added that if it is determined that the agreement harms the Iraqi sovereignty it would be ended. He noted that he discussed this issue recently with the Iraqi foreign minister in New York.

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat: Rabin's Death Barely Affects Peace Process

BR1311151495 Rome L'UNITA in Italian 10 Nov 95 p 5

[Report on interview with PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat by unidentified correspondent in Gaza on 9 November: "Death Does Not Frighten Me"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Gaza — Yasir 'Arafat, the old lion, looked exhausted, maybe older, but the "old man's" spirit is indomitable. Perhaps the previous night he worked, as usual, until dawn, and then, late yesterday morning, he had a conversation at the headquarters of the National Authority with British Foreign Secretary Malcolm Rifkind, who came to Gaza to confirm London's economic aid to Palestine. It was the same old Abu 'Ammar, apart from his increased pallor and slightly trembling lip. Nevertheless, he always seeks to adopt a relaxed tone, smiling readily. There is no doubt that the past few days of high feeling and bloodshed must have dealt him a very heavy blow. Rabin "was a hero of peace, but he was also a personal friend," he told Lea, the Israeli prime minister's widow, when he visited her that evening in Tel Aviv to express his condolences. In the past few days, within the space of a few seconds, long enough to fire three pistol shots, his great plans for peace, Palestine, and peaceful coexistence with Israel, were shaken. This was the first time that he has received journalists since the assassination of his great interlocutor, Rabin.

[L'UNITA] President 'Arafat, would you please say something more about the crime committed in Tel Aviv.

['Arafat] It was a terrible loss to all of us, a ghastly crime.

[L'UNITA] Do you not think that the murder of the Israeli prime minister was a slap in the face to those who firmly believe in peace?

['Arafat] This death barely affects the peace process.

[L'UNITA] What will happen now?

['Arafat] We are sure that with Mr. Peres as prime minister, the peace process will resume with the same pace and determination as ever.

[L'UNITA] How do you know?

['Arafat] I met with Rabin many times. With him, I signed the Oslo declaration and spent two months in discussions at Taba, after which I could say that I knew him well. But I would add that Shim'on Peres held the same stance. Their policy line was exactly the same.

[L'UNITA] Is it true that you too feel threatened?

['Arafat] There are several enemies of peace. And I find myself confronted by all of them, but I am not afraid of any danger. I am a strong leader, and do not forget that I even survived when my plane crashed in the Libyan desert.

[L'UNITA] What lessons have you learned from the attack in Tel Aviv?

['Arafat] I hope that the security forces will be increasingly ready to prevent irrational acts. Apart from that, I believe in God and in destiny.

[L'UNITA] Have you taken any special precautions?

['Arafat] None. I will continue living my usual life. I will not change my habits, and I will, continue working until very late.

[L'UNITA] What can you tell us about the Palestinian elections in January? Can you confirm to us that negotiations are under way with Hamas?

['Arafat] The dialogue is open with all the opposition forces. I am convinced that the majority of the Palestinian people are in favor of democracy and of the peace process that we are conducting with the Israelis. [passage omitted]

'Arafat: Threats Will Not Change Lifestyle

BR1311144195 Milan IL GIORNALE in Italian 10 Nov 95 p 15

[Report by Luciano Gulfi on interview with PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat in Gaza; date not given: "'Arafat: 'Let Us Deal with Terrorists'"]

[FBIS Translated Text] "The death threats do not worry me. Anyway, I have spent my entire life surrounded by danger. You get used to it in time. And anyway, I have a thick skin, you know? Do you remember that time that I crashed in my airplane in the Libyan desert?

Yasir 'Arafat, the "survivor," has aged a lot. Anyone close to him would swear that the assassination of Rabin shook him up thoroughly. Every now and then a slight tremor runs through his bottom lip and his poorly shaven cheeks, but his spirit is still that of an old fighter. The Palestinian leader realizes that he could now be touched, and he has revealed that he has received a great many death threats.

The meeting was at the headquarters of the Palestine National Authority, a white villa bristling with antennas located on the shore. The cars in the escort were already rumbling outside, while his bodyguards waited for him impatiently, their fingers on the triggers of their machine guns. But the old Abu-'Ammar has decided to take a five-minute break from the protocol.

How are you, Mr. President? "Fine, so far. Even if they make no secret of the fact that there are many enemies of the peace process. I hope that the security forces assigned to me are always prepared to prevent irrational acts. I am not, however, changing my lifestyle. I believe in God and in destiny, and I continue to live the same life I always have, working until 0200 or 0300."

The death of Rabin? "A horible crime. A loss for all of us. But we are moving forward down our path. The majority of the Palestinian people are in favor of democracy and peace. The opposition groups? Dialogue and negotiations are open and under way with everyone, including Hamas."

Time was up. 'Arafat left and got into a black Mercedes and disappeared in a whirlwind of cars packed with armed men. It was not easy to get near him. Personal checks, metal detectors, even my credit cards were folded slightly to see if they were "just" plastic.

PLO Steps Up Security Around 'Arafat

NC0911162095 Paris AFP in English 1601 GMT 9 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Gaza City, Gaza Strip, Nov 9 (AFP) — Security has been stepped up around the offices of PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat since the assassination of Israeli prime minister Yitzhaq Rabin.

Anyone wishing to cross the carpark next to the seafront offices of the Palestinian Authority is systematically searched with electronic detectors, a novelty for Palestinian police, and arms have been banned except for security agents and authorised leaders. Once inside the building, visitors have to undergo extra electronic searches.

Rabin was killed Saturday [4 November] by an extremist Jew at a peace rally in Tel Aviv, and two Damascus-based Palestinian organisations opposed to the peace process have issued death threats against 'Arafat.

The newspaper of the Islamic Resistance Movement Hamas, AL-WATAN, edited in Gaza, published on its front page Thursday a cartoon of Rabin with a bloody face and a bullet between the eyes.

It drew up a list of "Rabin Acts Against the Palestinian People" and condemned the presence of Arab leaders such as King Husayn of Jordan and Egyptian President Husni Mubarak.

Hamas has carried out most of the anti-Israeli attacks, which have left dozens dead, and has yet to renounce violence, a key demand for any reconciliation with the Palestinian Authority.

'Abd-al-Shafi on Peace Process After Rabin Murder

AU1011105695 Hamburg DIE WOCHE in German 10 Nov 95 p 35

[Interview with Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, leader of the PLO delegation at the Madrid peace talks, by Wolfgang Zehrt; place and date not given: "'Israel Must Seize the Opportunity'"]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Zehrt] What was your first reaction when you heard about the murder of Yitzhaq Rabin?

['Abd-al-Shafi] I condemn any kind of violence, including this attack. Whether it be Israelis or Palestinians, blind terrorism has nothing to do with politics.

[Zehrt] Obituaries have called Rabin a "man of peace." Do you share that view?

['Abd-al-Shafi] One has to differentiate here. Rabin was certainly honest when he talked about peace. But he wanted an Israeli peace, he did not even want the peace that the United Nations demand in their resolutions. For example, Rabin knew very well that claiming Jerusalem as capital would always bring him into conflict with his Arab neighbors and the Palestinians.

[Zehrt] In Beirut, Palestinians celebrated Rabin's murder. Can you understand that?

['Abd-al-Shafi] It is a minority of our people, who live in catastrophic conditions. But there are many Palestinians in Gaza and the West Bank who will not be able to accept Rabin as a man of peace either.

[Zehrt] Even though Rabin brought them autonomy?

['Abd-al-Shafi] Rabin also stands for hundreds of dead and wounded people during the Intifadah. He fought for his kind of peace with a lot of courage and commitment, that has to be acknowledged. But one must not forget everything else over that.

[Zehrt] How difficult will things be for Rabin's successor?

['Abd-al-Shafi] The Israeli Government might not have to make so many concessions to ultra-right forces in the future, for nobody will want to be accused of making common cause with Rabin's murderers. If Israel seizes this opportunity, enormous progress can be achieved in the peace process.

[Zehrt] Do you think that there will be changes within the group of settlers now?

['Abd-al-Shafi] I think that the religious, fanatic extremists in the Gaza Strip and Hebron are still capable of taking up arms. But I do think that this group will lose its fellow-travelers, who talk only about violence.

[Zehrt] Your obituary for Yitzhaq Rabin?

['Abd-al-Shafi] A great and courageous man who energetically fought for a cause in which he believed.

PLO Executive Committee Issues Statement on Rabin

JN1411091595 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0600 GMT 14 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] President Yasir 'Arafat returned home from Cairo yesterday where he chaired the meetings of the PLO Executive Committee and met Egyptian President Husni Mubarak.

The PLO Executive Committee held many sessions during the past two days. The sessions were attended by 12 members, as well as by Salim al-Za'nun, also known as Abu-al-Adib, acting speaker of the Palestine National Council; Dr. Sa'ib 'Urayqat, minister of local government and chairman of the central committee for elections; and Hani al-Hasan, member of the Fatah Central Committee.

The Executive Committee discussed the ongoing arrangements and preparations for taking control over the

Palestinian cities, in implementation of the second part of the Declaration of Principles. The committee also discussed the law on holding Palestinian legislative elections on 20 January, in addition to the latest developments in the peace process following the assassination of Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin and the U.S. Congress decision to move the U.S. Embassy from Tel Aviv to occupied Jerusalem.

The PLO Executive Committee issued a statement on the most important recommendations made at the end of its two days of meetings. The statement strongly condemns the assassination of late Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin, considering it a terrorist act against the peace process. The statement adds that the answer to extremism, racism, and terrorism requires the continuation of the peace process, in accordance with the agreements that were signed.

The PLO Executive Committee statement notes that the beginning of the implementation of the Taba accord is a positive step that will create an appropriate atmosphere to move toward the talks on the final status, to remove the factors that create tension, and to confront the course of extremism and terrorism. The statement reiterates the PLO's compliance with all of its commitments stated in the agreements and its concern about carrying out these commitments.

On the national level, the PLO Executive Committee stressed the importance of continuing national dialogue among all Palestinian political and social parties, factions, forces, and nationalists, within the framework of the endeavor to hold free and fair general elections to elect the chairman of the National Authority and its legislative councils.

The statement adds that the upcoming legislative elections will shoulder an important and big responsibility in this transitional period to continue work to complete the implementation of the agreements, to guarantee the national rights of our people, and to build the components of the democratic and progressive Palestinian society.

The PLO Executive Committee decided to continue national dialogue, led by President Yasir 'Arafat, with the participation of the committee, the National Authority Council of Ministers, and the largest number of national and social forces and personalities.

On the other hand, the PLO Executive Committee denounced the U.S. Congress decision to move the U.S. Embassy in Israel to occupied Jerusalem. The PLO Executive Committee statement notes that the decision violates the bases of the peace process, the Palestinian-Israeli accord, the U.S. letter of assurances before the Madrid conference, and the international legitimacy resolutions on Jerusalem.

The Executive Committee calls for ignoring the U.S. Congress decision and for rejecting any results this decision would produce. The committee also expresses its appreciation of the stand of the U.S. Administration and President Bill Clinton on this decision. The PLO Executive Committee called for adopting an Arab, Islamic, and Christian stand to confront the Congress decision.

The PLO Executive Committee statement reaffirms the need to continue to reinforce relations with all sisterly Arab countries. The statement also reaffirms the need for continuing work on all tracks, particularly the Syrian and Lebanese tracks, to achieve comprehensive and full peace.

'Arafat Reportedly Declines To Hold Talks With Hamas

JN1111093095 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic
11 Nov 95 p 25

[FBIS Translated Text] Damascus, QUDS PRESS — The Palestinian opposition [Islamic Resistance] Movement, Hamas has stated that PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat has declined to hold a national reconciliation dialogue with Hamas in Khartoum without giving any reasons.

An authorized Hamas source told QUDS PRESS that Yasir 'Arafat sent press adviser Marwan Kanafani to Khartoum to meet with Sudanese leader Hasan al-Turabi, secretary general of the Arab and Islamic Popular Conference, and inform him of the stand of the PLO which is not in favor of holding the dialogue session in Sudan.

Hamas Leader Hopes Dialogue With PA To Continue

AU1011094295 Hamburg DIE WOCHE in German
10 Nov 95 p 35

[Interview with Hamas leader 'Imad al-Faluji by Sylke Tempel; place and date not given: "'The Dialogue Continues'"]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Tempel] Do you think that the murder of Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin will obstruct the peace process?

[Al-Faluji] No. The Israeli Government does not only consist of one person, nor does the peace process depend on just one person. Yitzhaq Rabin and Shim'on Peres share the same views on peace. And Peres will continue the peace process.

[Tempel] For some time now Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] has been conducting talks with the autonomy authority [Palestinian Authority, PA] on a "cease-fire" and a halt to terrorist operations against the Israelis. Will these talks continue?

[AL-Faluji] I do hope that the dialogue will continue.

[Tempel] Yitzhaq Rabin was murdered by a Jewish fanatic. Do you think it is possible that Yasir 'Arafat could be murdered by a Palestinian extremist?

[Al-Faluji] No, I do not think that 'Arafat could be killed. I, for my part, absolutely reject this policy of murdering leaders. Nor do I think that anyone among our people would murder 'Arafat. We simply do not believe in this method. In any case, our people know that this would be extremely dangerous because it could result in a civil war, which we do not want. We have meetings here every day, not between official Hamas representatives and the autonomy authority, but of people who hold different views to make sure that such an attack does not happen here.

Hamas Representative Nazzal on Talks With PA

JN1111141995 Amman AL-URDUN in Arabic 13 Nov 95 p 5

[Interview with Muhammad Nazzal, Hamas representative in Jordan, by Muhammad Suwaydan; place and date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Suwaydan] What is your assessment of the current Palestinian political state of affairs, particularly in the wake of Rabin's assassination, and what impact will his assassination have on the peace process?

[Nazzal] It is obvious that the peace process is foundering although it proceeds toward the conclusion of agreements. We believe that the agreements signed show that the Palestinian and Arab sides have given too many concessions, and that the promises made to the Palestinian people, most likely, will not be fulfilled. The agreements signed in Oslo and Cairo have a negative impact on crucial issues such as the issue of Jerusalem, the settlements, the repatriation of the refugees, and the full Israeli withdrawal.

It goes without saying that Rabin's assassination will upset the peace process, but not, necessarily, to the point of suspending or paralyzing it.

The change that took place was a change in persons. We know that Peres is even more inclined to pursue the peace process than Rabin was. From this premise, I do not expect any change in this direction, however, the assassination might have a negative impact on Israeli society. We all know that this assassination is the first political assassination since the establishment of the Jewish state. This means that a new approach other than dialogue and democracy has started to materialize in Israeli society. This could influence the frame of mind of Israeli society and could pave the way for other political assassinations.

[Suwaydan] Is it possible that this assassination could lead to a civil war in Israel?

[Nazzal] A civil war is far-fetched, but the use of violence could increase.

[Suwaydan] Some recently suggested the transformation of Hamas Islamic Resistance Movement] into a political party, or the formation of a political party in the occupied territories that belongs to Hamas. Why this and why now?

[Nazzal] The Hamas Movement will not become a political party. The reasons for the establishment of Hamas at the beginning of the intifadah are still there. Our land is still occupied. From this premise, the Hamas Movement, being a resistance movement against occupation, cannot abandon the objectives and goals for which it was established. The idea of a political party was raised when the Palestinian Authority came to Gaza. Some said that a new state of affairs has emerged which needs to be tackled in a different way and with new means. These people believe that a political party is one of these means. We in Hamas have left the door open to our members and cadres to decide whether or not to join this party if such a party is established.

[Suwaydan] Who do you mean by some people?

[Nazzal] They are members of Hamas and a number of independents.

[Suwaydan] Can we say that there are two viewpoints within Hamas leadership inside and outside as regards the position on the political party?

[Nazzal] Definitely, there may be various viewpoints on any certain issue. This is normal, however, the point on which no two people could disagree is that the members of the movements, both inside and outside, must be in harmony with its policies and decisions. I do not think there is any contradiction in the statements which were made by the various Hamas spokesmen, but there may be differences in the wording. The media are also making a mistake in this regard when they do not differentiate between Hamas turning into a political party and Hamas not objecting to the establishment of a political party. This mix-up created some sort of ambiguity as regards this issue.

[Suwaydan] Does Hamas have an official spokesman in the self-rule areas? Does 'Imad al-Faluji represent Hamas?

[Nazzal] As for 'Imad al-Faluji, the movement issued a statement saying that he does not represent, or speak for it. He is not one of its leaders or key figures. Hamas does not have an official spokesman for Hamas inside. The people who speak there do so in a personal capacity, but the media say that they represent Hamas or speak on its behalf.

[Suwaydan] There have been conflicting reports on the delegation which came from Gaza to talk with you in Khartoum. Some reports say the delegation came on a mediation mission. Others say it was a Hamas delegation. Why is this contradiction? Is this due to internal differences?

[Nazzal] The delegation which left for Khartoum was a mediatory delegation. It does not represent Hamas or the Palestinian Authority. It embarked on that mission to ease the tension that developed in the Gaza Strip following the Authority's arrest of some Hamas leaders and key figures. What was published in the media was leaked by the Authority agencies which wanted to distort the delegation's mission, which was a praiseworthy mission and the delegation must be thanked for it.

[Suwaydan] Two Hamas members handed themselves in [to the Palestinian Authority] after escaping from jail. What does this development mean?

[Nazzal] I do not have any confirmed information on the circumstances surrounding the escape of the three [as published] people or their surrender.

[Suwaydan] Will Cairo, Amman, or Khartoum be the venue for the coming dialogue with the Palestinian Authority [PA]? Does Hamas have any specific conditions in this regard?

[Nazzal] Dr. Hasan al-Turabi, secretary general of the Arab and Islamic Popular Conference, invited both parties to a dialogue under his sponsorship in Khartoum in late June. At that time, we informed Dr. al-Turabi of our agreement to dialogue. The PA, however, did not inform him of its official positions, so no meeting was held.

When we met with the mediation delegation in Khartoum, Dr. al-Turabi renewed his invitation to both parties, and we informed him of our agreement. The mediation delegation promised to convey the invitation to Yasir 'Arafat, however, the PA has thus far not notified al-Turabi of its agreement. All that is carried by the media is baseless.

We agreed to dialogue in Khartoum in accordance with the invitation we received. If the other party has reservations over the venue, it should officially inform us of them. In this case, we can search for alternatives.

[Suwaydan] Elections for a Palestinian self-rule council will soon be held. Will you participate in them? What is your position on these elections?

[Nazzal] We view the coming elections as a means to grant legitimacy to the current PA under 'Arafat in order to implement the Oslo and subsequent agreements. We could have participated in free elections without complying with the political terms which commit any Palestinian side to the implementation of these agreements.

We, however, believe that elections in the Third World in general and in our Arab region in particular are democratic in form only and not in substance, and that they have specific limits, so the Islamic forces are not permitted to win the majority of votes. This is best proved by the elections held in Algeria. When the Islamic Salvation Front won the majority, elections were canceled. We thus believe that results of the Palestinian elections are known in advance; the Oslo team will win them and complete the political process to the end.

These elections will be dealt with once things become clear. Things are still obscure, and the decisionmaker has no clear way to deal with them. However, once things are obvious Hamas will take a clear and specific position.

I would like to assert that our dialogue with the PA has nothing to do with elections or with anything else linked to our political positions. This dialogue aims to reach points of agreement which will prevent a clash between Hamas and the PA.

[Suwaydan] Have the suicide and other operations by Hamas stopped? Does this mean a change in Hamas policy or a deal with the PA?

[Nazzal] Resistance is a strategic and consistent line for Hamas. No political decision has thus far been made on stopping military action in any Palestinian territory. However, carrying out military operations is subject to ups and downs for pure technical considerations. I do not believe that there is stagnation in this regard. The most recent Hamas operation was carried out three months ago.

[Suwaydan] Will Dr. Fathi al-Shaqaqi's martyrdom impede the formation of a political party or the negotiations with the Palestinian Authority?

[Nazzal] The Israeli Mosad assassinated Dr. Fathi al-Shaqaqi. The assassination has nothing to do with our dialogue with the authority or with the formation of a party. The Islamic Jihad Movement itself issued a statement saying it does not accuse any other party except the Mosad. I do not believe we are more informed about the assassination file than the brothers in the Islamic Jihad.

[Suwaydan] Al-Shaqaqi's assassination has brought about a wave of accusations against Libya. Are there any grounds for these accusations?

[Nazzal] As I said in reply to the previous question, the brothers in the Islamic Jihad accuse the Mosad. It is obvious that they have grounds for this. One can say that there is collusion by a specific party, but one needs to substantiate these accusations. We are not familiar with the file on the case to accuse this or that party.

[Suwaydan] How do you explain the Libyan measures of expulsion against the Palestinians?

[Nazzal] We clarified our stand through the media. We denounced the Libyan measures of expulsion of the Palestinians and we do not see any logical justification for this. Contrary to what the Libyans say, this measure serves the Palestinian authority more than it harms it and gives it more justifications and excuses to sign agreements with the Israelis.

[Suwaydan] The idea of a confederation between Palestine and Jordan was recently submitted. What is Hamas' stand on this?

[Nazzal] There is need to agree on the terms and expressions we use. If a confederation means the unity of the two independent states of Palestine and Jordan, then we support the unity of the two people, however, what is submitted now is not clear, meaning that the formula that is being discussed is closer to a federal union than to a confederation. This raises many questions about the formula being discussed. We in the Hamas Movement are against dividing the sons of the one nation and against regionalism. The final stand on a confederation depends on the submission of a clear and specific political formula that will enable people to decide. I do not believe that there is an urgent need now to submit a political formula between the Palestinian and Jordanian people. What is urgent now is settling the issue of the Palestinian people under occupation. The problem is the issue of the Israeli occupation and its termination.

Kanafani Pursues 'Discreet Diplomacy' on Hamas Dialogue

JN0911155595 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1200 GMT 9 Nov 95

[Interview with Marwan Kanafani, adviser and official spokesman for Yasir 'Arafat, by unidentified correspondent on 9 November; place not given — recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Correspondent] Brother Marwan Kanafani, President Yasir 'Arafat's adviser and official spokesman, good evening.

[Kanafani] Good evening.

[Correspondent] Brother Marwan, you have just returned from your visit to Sudan. Welcome back.

[Kanafani] Thank you. In fact, I arrived about half an hour ago.

[Correspondent] Can you tell us about this visit and its results?

[Kanafani] At the president's instructions I went to Khartoum on a brief visit, which lasted less than 20 hours, to meet with President 'Umar al-Bashir and to convey a message to him and to Sudanese officials from President Yasir 'Arafat.

I had the honor to meet with President al-Bashir. I conveyed the president's message, in which he inquired about the situation in fraternal Sudan. Al-Bashir asked me to convey his, as well as the Sudanese Government's and people's greetings to the president, the National Authority, and the Palestinian people, in expression of the warm and strong historic relationship between the Palestinian and Sudanese people.

President al-Bashir also asked me to convey to the president his and the Sudanese Government's and people's support for the Palestinian National Authority's position on the peace process and its achievements as regards the implementation of the peace agreements between us and the Israelis. He also stressed that the negotiated solution and the Palestinian people's presence on Palestinian territory will help complete the action to establish the independent Palestinian state, God willing, with Jerusalem as its capital. President 'Umar al-Bashir also asked me to convey the support of the Sudanese Government and people to the Palestinian National Authority, the Palestinian people, and to President Yasir 'Arafat and their march to realize the state which we talked about.

President al-Bashir also briefed me on the position of the Sudanese Government on developments in the region. He strongly supported United Arab Emirates President Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan's initiative on restoring Arab unity and Arab solidarity. The Sudanese Government also supported this initiative. This issue is of concern to the Palestinian people and the National Authority. You know that Arab solidarity and a united Arab political position provide the strongest weapon for achieving progress on the various tracks to resolve the Palestine question.

[Correspondent] This is especially the case in light of the uproar over the Jerusalem question?

[Kanafani] Undoubtedly. You know that the position of the Arab brothers — and the position of the Muslim and Christian brothers and all fair and peace-loving people — is clear in regard to the Jerusalem issue.

[Correspondent] Brother Marwan, did you have any contacts with Dr. Hasan al-Turabi in respect to the dialogue with Hamas Movement?

[Kanafani] I met with Dr. Hasan al-Turabi and other officials and discussed various issues. The dialogue you mentioned was part of these issues.

[Correspondent] Where will that dialogue take place, in Khartoum or Cairo?

[Kanafani] Let me say I believe in quiet and discreet diplomacy. Let us discuss these issues when they take place, God willing.

[Correspondent] But are there any positive developments in this regard?

[Kanafani] Everything in this issue in particular reflects positive signs. This is a source of satisfaction to the Palestinian people, the president, and the other officials. Our brothers in Hamas have positive tendencies that generate optimism and confidence that the Palestinian people will not allow anyone — neither by carrot or stick — to drive them to unwanted fratricide; that it is forbidden to spill Palestinian blood; and that there is no alternative to dialogue and discussion.

[Correspondent] We thank you, Brother Marwan Kanafani, President Yasir 'Arafat's adviser and official spokesman.

Hamas Reportedly Not To Object To Moving Talks

JN1111154295 Amman AL-MASHRIQ Arabic 13-20 Nov 95 p 1

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] A source close to the Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, in Amman said that Hamas will not object to moving dialogue between the Palestinian Authority and the Hamas Movement to Cairo if Sudan, which currently hosts the talks, agrees.

The source told AL-MASHRIQ: The movement has decided to stop anti-Israeli military operations in the self-rule areas to avoid embarrassing the Palestinian Authority. However, it will maintain its right to resisting occupation outside the self-rule areas.

The source noted that 'Arafat insists on wresting a decision from Hamas on halting military operations in all the occupied territories. It stressed that this is "political suicide which does not enjoy the support of the movement's leaders."

The source said that President 'Arafat wants to move the talks to Cairo for political reasons, and because he is welcomed there, noting that Hamas will not accept any pressures on it.

The source pointed out that Hamas is continuing dialogue with the Palestinian Authority so as to prevent internecine fighting, to ease the authority's pressures on the movement's cadres inside [the occupied territories], and to reinforce institutions in Palestinian society. [passage omitted]

Authority Reportedly Frees 13 Hamas Militants

NC1311144995 Paris AFP in English 1417 GMT 13 Nov 95

[Report by Sakher Abu el-Oun]

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] Gaza City, Gaza Strip, Nov 13 (AFP) — About 13 Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] militants have been released by Yasir 'Arafat's self-rule authority, which said Monday [13 November] that the hardline group was ready to take part in the first Palestinian elections.

But Hamas officials who announced the releases said no decision had been reached on the group's participation in the poll.

"Yesterday, Palestinian national authority freed about 13 members," said one leader from the Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas), asking to remain anonymous. Around 30 still remain in jail, according to Hamas sources.

The top Hamas leader in Gaza and managing director of the Hamas mouthpiece AL WATAN, Shaykh Sayyid Abu-Musamih, was not among those freed. He was sentenced to two years in jail by a Palestinian court in July.

But there had been "an offer to release him because there is a possibility that he might be in the (reconciliation) talks," an official said.

The PLO and Hamas have been engaged in talks to try to work out a reconciliation deal ahead of the elections due in January. [passage omitted]

Fatah's al-Hasan Enters Gaza; Hamas Activists Released

TA1311195995 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1900 GMT 13 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The defense establishment is deploying to prevent the infiltration of hostile and criminal elements into Israel from across the Green Line following the IDF's [Israel Defense Forces] redeployment in Tulkarm, Qalqilyah, and Nabulus.

The Israeli-Palestinian liaison and coordination office will open near Tulkarm on 19 November. Our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem reports that tomorrow senior defense establishment officials and acting Prime Minister Shim'on Peres will conduct an inspection tour along the Green Line in order to take a close look at the preparations.

Israel has permitted Hani al-Hasan, a member of the Fatah Central Committee who is opposed to the Oslo agreements, to enter the autonomous areas. Al-Hasan arrived in the Gaza Strip today along with PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat from the PLO Executive Committee's meeting in Cairo.

The Palestinian police released 20 Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] activists from prison within the framework of confidence-building measures between Hamas and the Palestinian Authority. Hamas sources told our correspondent that Shaykh Sayyid Abu-Musamih, one of the movement's leaders and the editor of its bulletin, would also be released over the next few days.

Elections Committee Distributes Regulations

JN1011164095 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1400 GMT 10 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Central Elections Committee began to distribute election regulations and instructions in the Gaza Strip today. Usamah Abu-Safiyah, the committee's coordinator, said this campaign is aimed at giving guidance to the citizens on the election process and the registration process.

Two thousand male and female teachers will take part in this campaign. They will register voters and prepare an initial record of these voters as of 12 November. Moreover, Abu-Safiyah said that the first batch of international observers of the elections will arrive in the Gaza Strip tomorrow.

Agreement Reached on Jerusalem Elections Committee

JN1011204095 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1900 GMT 10 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Dr. Sa'ib 'Urayqat, minister of local government and head of the Central Elections Committee, said that an agreement was reached with the Israelis to form a committee to be in charge of arrangements for elections in Jerusalem. At the end of his meeting today with a delegation representing the Israeli Foreign and Interior Ministries, Dr. 'Urayqat said that the Palestinian voter card presented by the Palestinian side was approved. Moreover, the two sides agreed to form a committee to look into the issue of Palestinian citizens without identification cards in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. The department at which these Palestinians can apply for identification cards will be announced on 12 November.

Within this context, Dr. 'Urayqat said that a Palestinian-European-Israeli meeting will be held 15 November to discuss arrangements regarding the entry of international observers and their equipment from Israeli airports and seaports.

In a related development, Dr. 'Urayqat held a meeting with (Karl Libdon), former Swedish minister of justice and head of a delegation of international observers, at the Ministry of Local Government today in the presence of international observers. They discussed a number of issues dealing with the elections and the role of international observers in them. They also discussed how to distribute the observers starting 13 November to monitor the process of registering voters.

PA Police Arrest Anti-'Arafat Plotters

96AA0032A London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 16 Oct 95 pp 1,4

[Report by Ali al-Salih]

[FBIS Translated Text] London — The Israeli occupation authorities have closed offices of the Palestinian Preventive Security Service in four villages in the Janin area, in the northern West Bank. Israeli forces were supposed to withdraw from these villages at the end of this month, according to the agreement reached between Palestinian Chairman Yasir 'Arafat and Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres in their meeting yesterday. However, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT has learned that the Palestinian General Security Service is holding six young people from Tulkarm in its Jericho offices on charges of receiving military training at the camps of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine—General

Command [PFLP-GC], led by Ahmad Jibril, and planning to assassinate a number of Palestinian Authority [PA] figures, led by Yasir 'Arafat.

Meanwhile, Israel has banned Colonel Jibril Rajjub, head of the Preventive Security Service in Jericho, from traveling outside this area. Israel refused to give him a permit to travel to Gaza to participate in the meeting between 'Arafat and Peres yesterday. The Israelis have refused to give Rajjub a reason for their refusal. However, it is believed that this is connected with his security service's activity in the West Bank.

The Palestinian security services have preceded the PA in carrying out their activity in the West Bank. The redeployment of Israeli forces in Janin, Tulkarm, Qalqilyah, Nabulus, Ramallah, and Bethlehem was expected to begin on 25 October, according to the agreement reached between 'Arafat and Peres yesterday. In reaching this agreement, Israel was trying to prevent 'Arafat from boycotting the economic summit, which will be held in Amman on 29 October.

AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT has obtained the names of four of the six detainees. They are 'Abd-al-Hakim al-Salman, As'ad 'Awdah, Jamal Harb (al-Miskawi), and Ahmad al-'Ammuri.

In Jericho, an official of the General Security Service, headed by Tawfiq al-Tabrawi, who asked to remain anonymous, told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that the six young people are currently being held in Jericho. He said "they were not kidnapped, but summoned to Jericho for questioning after we had obtained complete information. They confessed to all charges."

The official added: "They admitted that they possessed weapons and that they belonged to the group of Hani al-Hasan, member of the Fatah Central Committee, who opposes the peace agreement with Israel. They also admitted that they were trying to establish an organization to begin operating three years from now, and that some of them received military training in the PFLP-GC's camps."

According to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT information, 'Awdah and al-Salman were members of the former Communist al-Sha'b Party and the other four were members of the Fatah Movement.

A source close to Hani al-Hasan has confirmed to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that the PA's security services have been making arrests in the West Bank since the agreement was signed in Washington. However, the source denied that there is any connection between the Hani al-Hasan group and Ahmad Jibril, as the Palestinian security authorities are saying. The source said that this accusation is apparently the beginning of a strong political campaign by the PA against the opposition.

Algeria

Berber Spokesman Arrested Prior to Elections

LD1311202795 Paris TF-1 Television Network in French 1900 GMT 13 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] On to the presidential elections in Algeria, which are scheduled to take place this Thursday [16 November]. We heard today that Djamel Zenati, spokesman for the Berber Cultural Movement, was arrested last night. The movement has called for a boycott of the elections.

[Paris France-2 Television in French at 1900 GMT reports: "The spokesman of the Berber Cultural Movement has disappeared. He was kidnapped by armed civilians while on his way to answer a summons by gendarmes."]

Embassy Denies Retaliation Against Non-Voters

LD1311135195 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in French 1130 GMT 13 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Algerian embassy in France has reacted to French press allegations. In a communique, the embassy refutes in the most categorical manner the allegations that measures of retaliation have been taken against Algerian nationals who do not take part in the elections for one reason or another. This is another attempt at misinformation whose authors have been unmasked by the spectacular turnout of 11 November at all the polling stations, concludes the communique.

Supreme Islamic Council Chief Condemns 'Terrorists'

BR1311142295 Turin LA STAMPA in Italian 13 Nov 95 p 7

[Report on interview with Grand Mufti Ahmed Hamani, chairman of the Supreme Islamic Council, by Domenico Quirico in Algiers; date not given: "Mufti's Rage: You Are Not Muslims"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Algiers — [passage omitted] In his declining years, at 85, Ahmed Hamani, grand mufti of Algeria, chairman of the Supreme Islamic Council, is weathering the storm that has for the past three years shaken the country where the most violence, killing, and torture is perpetrated in the name of Islam. Being a tolerant man, it is difficult for him to accept the "fatwahs," the death sentences, that other apostles — as mysterious and wicked as the Etruscans — preach in the mosques.

"It is not Islam that kills Muslims; it is politics that kills Muslims. My faith," he added, as though wanting to suppress his distress with tenderness, "says that it is forbidden to kill, that we must respect a person's soul, always, and that whoever kills, for whatever reason, in the name of Islam is killing Islam. We combated the French because they occupied our country; and right was on our side. But from 1962 through 1989, when this tragedy began, no foreigner was ever wounded in Algeria. This is not Islam."

This is the heart of this deadly whirlpool, which has already swallowed up 40,000 lives, which has spread beyond the shores of the Mediterranean — not a new Iran now in decline, but a dress rehearsal for a crisis of legitimacy that could bring down all the states of the Muslim world: What is the real Islam — the mystical and contemplative one of Hamani, or the defective compass and succession of bloodthirsty actions of the GIA, the Armed Islamic Group?

"Algerian terrorists in fact do not want the application of God's law, the shariah; they want power," the mufti said. "Their words are religious words, but their objective is political. They speak only on their own behalf. The problem of terrorism here is no different from the form that it takes in France, Italy, or Germany. Unfortunately young people allow themselves to be seduced because they are not wise, they do not know the real Koran. They want everything, and they want it right away. My children, my students, are young but they are not extremists. Even during the liberation war there were men who dreamed of the holy war. But today's terrorists are the sons of those who betrayed the revolution." [passage omitted]

Egypt

Mubarak Phones Saudi King on Blast, Voices Regret

NC1311155795 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 13 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] President Muhammad Husni Mubarak telephoned the custodian of the two holy mosques Saudi King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz to inquire about the situation in Riyadh in the wake of the bomb blast that occurred in the city at noon today.

President Mubarak voiced regret at this assault on innocent people, in which several members of the U.S. mission were killed. He said that this incident runs contrary to humanitarian values and morality.

Musa Receives New Qatari Envoy's Credentials

NC0911134795 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1225 GMT 9 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 9 Nov (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa today received a copy of the credentials of Mani' 'Abd-al-Hadi Mani' al-Hajiri, Qatar's new ambassador in Cairo.

At his meeting with al-Hajiri, Musa reviewed relations between Egypt and Qatar and ways to promote them in various fields. They also discussed several issues of common interest.

Israel Said Ready To Compensate for POW Killings

NC1411091395 Cairo MENA in Arabic
0820 GMT 14 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 14 Nov (MENA)—Ambassador 'Adil al-Safti, first Foreign Ministry under secretary, has stated that Israel has announced its readiness to compensate the families of prisoners killed in the 1956 and 1967 wars. He said the Egyptian delegation to the Amman economic summit held talks with the Israelis on this issue. He said the Israeli delegation, for the first time, expressed readiness to discuss the issue and possible compensation for the families of the victims.

In a statement to today's AL-AHRAM, al-Safti stressed that Egypt will not forget the POW's issue and will keep raising it until a satisfactory solution is reached. He said he hoped the issue will not drag on long, but that it will find a speedy solution.

Asked to evaluate peace between Egypt and Israel, Ambassador al-Safti said he objects to terms and adjectives that describe peace as cold or warm. I personally do not have a thermometer to measure peace, I do not know how they measure its temperature anyway, he said. He added: There is peace between Egypt and Israel. We encourage them to do particular things, such as negotiate with the Arabs in general. There are things we do not like and clearly oppose, such as nuclear armament. Our relations allow us to discuss even sensitive issues with each other, and this, in and of itself, is progress. To say this peace is warm, cold, icy, or boiling is to provide abstract, unrealistic descriptions.

AL-AKHBAR Assails Sudanese Regime

NC1311160095 Cairo MENA in Arabic
0607 GMT 13 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 13 Nov (MENA)—AL-AKHBAR has stated that the Sudanese regime's acts against Egypt and all neighboring countries are no more than bankruptcy. These acts, the paper says, are an indication of what awaits them at the hands of the fraternal people who have suffered the worst as they look for an opportunity to put an end to this dark stage in their history.

In an article in the newspaper today, AL-AKHBAR's Chief Editor Jalal Duwaydar says this frivolous play by a rotten, mad, and irresponsible regime cannot last for long.

He adds that it is obvious now the al-Turabi men have abandoned reason and logic in viewing the situation and that they lost their sense of perception. Their misjudgment and ignorance, he continues, prompted them to tread the path of aggression and incurring hostility without calculating the results.

He stresses that, despite all these facts that cannot be missed by anyone, the al-Turabi regime still insists on conspiring against Egypt and its people and sending terrorists, weapons, and money to shake Egypt's security and stability.

The writer says this band of conspirators, members of the ruling regime in Khartoum, still imagine they are able to score gains for themselves or their agents inside Egypt by smuggling arms via the southern routes. He notes that this is not the first time they opened the Sudanese army's weapon stores to ship arms inside our borders. Arms that are still brand new and registered as part of arms shipments received from abroad.

He says that at the height of their playing with fire, these plotters forgot that the eyes of the Egyptian security forces were alert and following their foolish movements. Evidence of this, he remarks, was the seizure of large quantities of weapons with confessions by the suspects that they brought the weapons in.

AL-AKHBAR's chief editor notes that this regime's leaders [may have the right] to do whatever they like in their country because this is their problem with their people, but they have no right to stretch their provocation, aggression, and terrorism to neighboring countries and nations. By doing so, he says, they open the door of hell to the country which has been afflicted by their rule.

Venezuelan Minister Arrives, Makes Statement

NC1111174295 Cairo MENA in English
1547 GMT 11 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Cairo, 11 Nov (MENA)—The Minister of Energy and Mines in Venezuela Erwin Jose Arrieta Valera arrived here this afternoon on a one-day visit during which he will meet with Oil Minister Dr. Hamdi al-Banbi. He will exchange views on several topics to be discussed during the OPEC meeting to be held in Geneva on November 22.

The Venezuelan minister said that despite the fact that Egypt is not a member of the OPEC it plays an important role in the area, thus he is keen on meeting with its officials to get acquainted with their views on the different issues pertaining to the production of oil. Venezuela is the current chairman of the OPEC. Speaking of the suggested carbon tax, the minister said it would never be applied and if it were its negative effect will harm the consumer and not the producer.

Minister al-Banbi Meets Valera

*NC1211124695 Cairo MENA in Arabic
1135 GMT 12 Nov 95*

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Cairo, 12 Nov (MENA)—Petroleum Minister Dr. Hamdi al-Banbi has voiced Egypt's support for OPEC in its bid to raise the price of crude oil.

Speaking at a news conference following his meeting last night with Erwin Jose Arrieta Valera, Venezuelan minister of energy and mines and current OPEC president, al-Banbi pointed out that Egypt will support any decisions by OPEC to bring the price of crude oil to appropriate levels that serve the interests of both producers and consumers. He added that he told the OPEC president that Egypt is ready to maintain its current production of 870,000 barrels per day to help OPEC maintain a reasonable price for crude oil. He hoped that the oil-producing countries, both inside and outside OPEC, will keep the current production levels.

Al-Banbi pointed out that he proposed to the OPEC president trying to persuade countries outside OPEC, particularly in the North Sea, to freeze their current production for one year at most while OPEC members keep their current production ceiling, which is 24.52 million barrels. He stressed that if all countries accept this proposal, there will be a significant rise in prices, since this will prompt the industrial states to consume its stored reserves, something that will restore balance to the market. However, al-Banbi expressed his belief that Norway, which produces 3 million barrels per day and exports them all, will object to this proposal. Norway uses power generated from waterfalls to meet its energy requirements. Russia, Nigeria, and Mexico may also object to this proposal due to their economic conditions, he added.

Al-Banbi noted that the OPEC president had presented three scenarios for the oil market. In the first, oil production by OPEC members and others will stay at the current ceiling, and this will help raise the price of OPEC and other oil to $21 per barrel. In the second scenario, countries outside OPEC will be permitted to raise their production ceiling by approximately one million barrels a day while the OPEC ceiling will be increased by approximately 400,000 barrels per day. This may cause a slight drop in prices. The third possibility, he added, is to give each country the freedom to produce what it wants, and this will cause prices to tumble and not a single state will be able to earn the revenues it is getting now. [passage omitted]

OAPEC Official Cited on Oil, Gas Reserves

*NC1311134495 Cairo MENA in Arabic
1045 GMT 13 Nov 95*

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Cairo, 13 Nov (MENA)—'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Turki, secretary general of the Organization of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries [OAPEC], has stated that the confirmed reserves from crude oil in the Arab states up to the end of 1994 amounted to 629 billion barrels, representing 61.5 percent of world reserves. He noted that reserves from natural gas amounted to 30 trillion cubic meters, representing 20 percent of world reserves.

In his address at the inauguration of a seminar on the use of pipelines to transport hydrocarbon material in Arab countries, the OAPEC secretary general noted that production of crude oil in the Arab states reached 18 million barrels per day in 1994, representing 28 percent of world production, while their natural gas production reached 165 billion cubic meters, or 8 percent of world production. He stressed that the capacity of pipelines transporting oil, natural gas, and oil derivatives is directly related with the production and export of these materials. So far, he added, the network of pipelines devoted to these purposes in the Arab countries has responded to these requirements. [passage omitted]

Romanian President, Delegation Arrive on Visit

Iliescu Meets Mubarak

*NC1311103295 Cairo MENA in Arabic
1000 GMT 13 Nov 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 13 Nov (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak has held a preliminary session of talks with Romanian President Ion Iliescu following a reception at the Presidential Office in Heliopolis. Only the two leaders were present at the talks.

The Romanian president arrived in Cairo this morning on a two-day visit to Egypt during which he will hold talks with President Mubarak. He was received at the airport by Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa.

The Romanian president is being accompanied by senior officials from the Romanian Foreign and Trade Ministries and several bank presidents and businessmen

Ministers Sign Agreement

*NC1311143895 Cairo MENA in English
1345 GMT 13 Nov 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] CAIRO, NOV. 13—(MENA)—Egypt and Romania today signed three cooperation agreements in the fields of health, labour and external affairs.

The agreement on labour was co-signed by Minister of Manpower and Employment Ahmad al-'Amawi and visiting Romanian Minister of State for Labour and Social Security Dan Mircea Popescu. The agreement on health cooperation was signed by the undersecretaries of the Egyptian Health and Romanian Foreign Ministries. Signatories to the cooperation protocol between the two countries' Foreign Ministries were Assistant Foreign Minister Ambassador Ra'uf Ghunaym and the Romanian foreign undersecretary. The signing ceremony was attended by Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa and Health Minister Dr. 'Ali 'Abd-al-Fattah. The Romanian minister of state said that the agreements will help boost bilateral ties.

Liberal Party Leader Details Election Program

NC1111215895 Cairo MENA in Arabic
1947 GMT 11 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 11 Nov (MENA)—Three opposition party leaders reviewed their parties' programs for the next People's Assembly elections on a television program on the parties' agendas this evening.

Discussing his party's program, Liberal Party leader Mustafa Kamil Murad said it covers various political, economic, social, and cultural aspects and what it calls its foreign policy, noting that politics steer into all other domains.

Commenting on the political aspects of the Liberal Party program, Murad said the party demands an amendment to the Constitution because the Constitution was enacted during an era of a system of single political organization, since after the 1952 revolution parties were not founded until 1976.

He added that Egyptians are liberal by nature and that they prefer freedom of movement and economic activity. Therefore, he noted, we encourage a policy of opening the private sector to investment in all fields, especially because the state is suffering a budget deficit. He added: Thus, we demand that no banknotes be printed exceeding the national income growth rate.

The Liberal Party leader demanded that the president of the Republic and his deputy be elected directly by the people because the current system, the referendum system, destroys competition and results in low voter turnout.

He said: We demand that the parliament consist of two bodies, a people's assembly and a consultative council, and that the parliament enjoy legislative powers and the ability to pass laws, not as it is now—with a consultative council that just notes its view.

He added: We also demand the cancellation of Article 73 of the Constitution that gives the president of the Republic the power to adopt unlimited measures when the constitutional institution is threatened or disorder in public security occurs. He also demanded that a referendum be held on the measures intended by the president, particularly because the word measures is an absolute word which gives the president powers above all other authorities. We seek a balance between the three executive, legislative, and judicial authorities, he added.

He clarified that there is a weak point in the Constitution that must be removed so that the People's Assembly will have the right to withdraw confidence from the government without consent from the president of the Republic.

The Liberal Party leader called for abolishing the post of Social Public Prosecutor because that post only suited the social system and therefore this prosecutor no longer has a role to play. He noted that this post leads to the presence of more than one prosecution authority.

He also demanded the cancellation of all laws that restrict freedoms, including Law No. 93 of 1995, which calls for tougher penalties for publication crimes, the one dubbed as the law assassinating freedom of the press.

Trainer of Potential Assassins Killed

NC1211191295 Cairo MENA in Arabic
1540 GMT 12 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 12 Nov [MENA]—Two of the most dangerous terrorists in Egypt were killed by government forces today and 18 others were arrested during operations carried out by the State Security Detection Agency in al-Fayyum Governorate, 80 km south of Cairo.

An official Interior Ministry source announced that the Detection Agency received information that a leading terrorist figure, who lived in Sudan and was considered one of the few terrorists who had links with the terrorist Mustafa Hamzah, had recently been sent back to Egypt. According to the information, he used the nom de guerre "Shamil," had received elite military training in Afghanistan, had lived in a terrorist camp in Sudan, and had trained members of a clandestine organization to carry out bombings and assassinations. He also trained the terrorist group that carried out the assassination attempt [against President Mubarak] in Addis Ababa in June 1995.

Surveillance teams belonging to the State Security Detection Agency determined the appearance of the suspect, his organizational capabilities, and his methods of movement and concealment.

Using the above information, the Detection Agency sent a full team to Upper Egypt to begin investigating to determine his identity and area of activity. The team members located him and surveilled his secret movements in the governorates of Bani Suwayf, al-Fayyum, al-Minya, Qina, and Cairo. He used many aliases in addition to the nom de guerre above.

He was finally identified as 'Abd-al-Karim Abu-al-Fadl Ahmad Haris, born in Qina Governorate in 1964. He left Egypt for Afghanistan after graduating from Asyut University's Teachers College in 1991. After three years in Afghanistan he left for Sudan.

The surveillance team discovered that after his return to Egypt he made contact with several fugitive terrorist leaders in al-Minya and Qina Governorates and discussed with them ways to escape the security siege imposed on terrorist activity in the area. He also discussed with them ways of obtaining weapons, ammunition, and explosives with the aim of escalating the violence, carrying out assassinations, and undermining the country's security and stability. He also trained fugitive terrorists in methods of bombing and storming operations with the aim of assassinating prominent personalities, including security officials, and bombing some of the country's vital installations.

After the original security team was reinforced with new members, it succeeded in identifying the field terrorists who acted as liaison between Haris and terrorist leaders in Upper Egypt governorates. Their movements and contacts were surveilled and it was discovered that one of the liaison terrorists had made an appointment with the fugitive terrorist leader Muhammad Ibrahim Dawud, commander of the [Islamic Group's] military wing in the governorates of al-Minya, Bani Suwayf, and al-Fayyum. Another surveillance team located the hideout of the leading fugitive terrorist 'Abd-al-Karim Abu-al-Fadl Ahmad Haris, which was in a mountainous area on the boundary between al-Fayyum and Bani Suwayf.

The security source added the State Security Detection Agency sent a few security troops to the meeting place—the clock square in al-Fayyum—at the scheduled hour. When the terrorist Muhammad Ibrahim Dawud sensed the presence of the security forces, he opened fire on them. He was killed in the ensuing exchange of gunfire. A 9-mm pistol, documents belonging to his organization, and several forged identity cards were found on him.

Muhammad Ibrahim Dawud was a very dangerous terrorist and had personally supervised terrorist attacks in al-Minya this year. He was a fugitive from justice, wanted in connection with numerous security cases.

The Interior Ministry security source said that the anti-terrorist squads attacked the hideout of the terrorist 'Abd-al-Karim Abu-al-Fadl in the mountainous area between al-Fayyum and Bani Suwayf.

A storming operation led to an exchange of gunfire between the terrorist and the security forces in which the terrorist died. Two pistols, a forged identity card carrying his photo but made out in the name of Jalal Lutfi Mustafa, and several organizational papers were found with him.

Meanwhile, other security detachments attacked the hideouts of the terrorists who had acted as liaison officers between Haris and other terrorists in the governorates of Cairo, al-Minya, Bani Suwayf, al-Fayyum, and Asyut.

The security operations resulted in the arrest of 18 fugitive terrorists. Surveillance operations to arrest other terrorists continue.

The Prosecutor's Office is interrogating the suspects.

Third Day of 'Bright Star '95' Highlighted

NC1311150895 Cairo MENA in Arabic
1305 GMT 13 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Alexandria, 13 Nov (MENA)—The 'Bright Star 95' exercises entered their third day today with several Egyptian and U.S. planes air dropping around 230 U.S. and Egyptian paratroopers this morning in the Jabal Hamzah area.

Paratroop units from Egypt, Britain, and the United Arab Emirates also undertook joint patrols with the aim of coordinating actions between them.

The third day missions included Egyptian and British troops using light weaponry against terrestrial targets. An Egyptian-U.S. commando unit mined an enemy vessel by infiltration and diving under the target. Today's missions also involved another commando unit reconnoitering an enemy forces' position and directing planes to strafe it.

A joint Egyptian-U.S. commando unit also carried out an operation involving the loading and transporting of military vehicles on board helicopters with the aim of reconnoitering an enemy air defense battery and raiding it later.

The major battle of the exercise is scheduled to be carried out tomorrow when the joint forces will attack the security cordon units of the hostile forces and simultaneously the enemy's main defensive positions from the flank. The main aim of the exercise is to coordinate the cooperation of the five countries' forces — Egypt, the United States, France, Britain, and the United Arab Emirates — against hostile forces that have penetrated the international borders of a neighboring country in order to seize its resources and to ensure the joint forces' success in forcing the hostile forces to retreat behind the international borders, after inflicting heavy material and human losses on them.

The forces participating in the exercises during the last two days staged a major sea landing operation on a coast, carried out an air drop, and shelled the enemy forces.

56,000 soldiers, 800 planes, and 30 vessels — including the aircraft carrier USS America — are taking part in these exercises in addition to mechanized infantry units, armored vehicles, paratroopers, commandos, electronic warfare units, and marines.

Further on Exercise

NC1411081795 Cairo MENA in Arabic
0620 GMT 14 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 14 Nov (MENA)—AL-AHRAM highlights the Bright Star 95 maneuvers being conducted in Egypt. It says these maneuvers are thought to be the biggest to be held, with well over 55,000 troops from the United States, Britain, France, Egypt, and the United Arab Emirates participating.

In its comment today AL-AHRAM notes that these maneuvers embody the dictum that peace needs a force to protect and safeguard it. Peace without a force is rather like capitulation, because the world is going through many changes and dangers. Raising the Armed Forces' combat proficiency acquires a special significance in confronting all these dangers.

AL-AHRAM says these military exercises reflect a basic principle represented in diversifying the sources of information and know-how after the diversification of the sources of weapons. It stresses that mixing Egyptian soldiers and their commanders with the other participating troops is bound to lift the level of combat awareness and result in exchanges of views on the best methods of confronting specific situations during the maneuvers.

The paper points out that the main objective of these maneuvers is the discipline of defending any country against aggression. But this does not mean the maneuvers are only confined to defensive methods, because the maneuvers' programs include a considerable amount of offensive plans.

Libya

JANA Cites Radio Commentary Denouncing VOA

LD1311150795 Tripoli JANA in English
1425 GMT 13 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tripoli, 13 al-Harth [Nov], JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY — The radio of the Greater Arab Homeland, voice of the revolutionary committees, has confirmed that the American intelligence radio, known as the Voice of America [VOA] persists in its ignorance and naivety and is a laughing stock, particularly when it comments on the Great Jamahiriyah. It ignores that the Great Jamahiriyah is the country of direct peoples democracy, the state of jamahiri masses, where peoples authority flourishes and freedom is triumphant, and everyone enjoys real natural rights.

The Greater Arab Homeland radio said in it comment today that the so-called Voice of America, is notorious for lies, deception and distortion. This radio is engaged, every now and then, in libellous reporting on some issues that were settled by the nations, particularly the so-called Lockerbie case.

The so-called V.O.A. radio is no more than an organ of western colonialist malice and hatred against other nations, particularly the Arab nation, when handling this case. It ignores all the historical facts, all legal aspects, all crucial evidence, which vindicate the Great Jamahiriyah, in respect of this fabricated accusation.

The so-called V.O.A radio never took the pain of finding what the international community position is regarding this case. It never reflected the views and positions of official or popular organisations throughout the world regarding this case. This confirms that the American intelligence did not set up this radio for the sake of Arab's dark eyes. The radio was basically set up to transmit in Arabic to voice falsehoods, perpetuate misinformation and distortion, to fool the un-suspecting ignorants. Whatever this radio says, no one , in his right frame of mind, will believe it.in fact those who are aware feel disgust and revulsion for what this radio transmits.

This radio is known to be [word indistinct], the headquarters of spies, agents, mercenaries and cheap writers, and those who are not aware, in fact deny, that the Great Jamahiriyah is the land of direct peoples democracy, the [word indistinct] of the free masses, where the peoples authority flourishes, and where freedom triumphs, where people enjoy their natural rights, self-determination, rule themselves by themselves. Where people enjoy the full fruit of their toil. Libya is the land where authority is in the hands of the people, all the people. The wealth is with the peoples. The arms are with the people. Libya is the land of popular moves and acts by peoples congresses and peoples committees. Libya is the ideal example of the modern jamahiri state. This fact is known to the whole world. And every nation is looking forward to achieve the victory achieved by the Great Jamahiriyah.

Editor Comments on VOA 'Falsehoods'

LD1311152895 Tripoli JANA in English
1417 GMT 13 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tripoli/12 al Harth [Nov]/ JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY — The radio of the American intelligence, which is known as the Voice of America, persists in perpetuating falsehoods and allegations with the aim of misleading world public opinion and constantly distorting the facts, particularly in relation to the Lockerbie case.

The radio transmitted a comment, on the 9th of this month, expressing the policy of the American Government. The comment reflected the real image of this policy, which could be described as [word indistinct] foolish and devoid of any credibility, and seeks blindly to intensify the sanctions against the Great Jamahiriyah, in total disregard for the collective position of the international community which seeks a fair settlement for the issue.

The JANA international affairs editor commented on the American aggressive delirium, which undermined all values and principles of international relations, and enshrined in the United Nations Charter, and turned the Security Council into a flexible tool in the hand of the American Government to brandish its sword over the heads of nations.

The editor highlighted the following facts:

Firstly: The American aggressive conduct and evil tendency do not contribute towards good relations amongst nations. It blows up all nintiatives and efforts towards fair and just settlements for all international issues as it rejects the style of dialogue and constructive discussion as means to establish the truth.

Secondly: The unjustified persistence in American arrogance would undermine the whole truth. The continued cover-up for evidences and clues in the case reaffirm the malicious intent in which America has been involved to politicise this legal case, in a way that flouts the interests of victims families, as it claims to be in possession of evidence that do not exist, basically.

Thirdly: Justice only will prevail eventually. But the manner of mixing political issues with electoral cards will remain as evidence for falsehood, deception and distortion, as such action seeks the control of power by one party. [Word indistinct] has no considertion for relations between states. It will not serve the real goals of international politics, which are based on the achievement of the aspirations of the nations, away from any falshoods or deception.

The comment by the above mentioned radio proves, beyond any doubt, that this radio is totally ignorant of the Jamahiri political system applied in Great Jamahiriyah, where the masses have the right in decision making, through peoples congresses and peoples committees. The Great Jamahiriyah has 300 basic peoples congresses. This is the ultimate pluralism. It is not the pluralism of two parties, where the adminstrative power is centred at the hands of one person, who follows the interests of his party, the part that helped him win the fradulent elections, by a shaky majority.

Morocco

King Hassan Denounces Riyadh Explosion

LD1311215795 Rabat RTM Television Network
in Arabic 2030 GMT 13 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Following the explosion that took place today in the city of Riyadh, His Majesty King Hassan II, may God make him victorious, sent a cable to the custodian of the two holy mosques, His Majesty King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, in which he said:

Your Excellency King Fahd, our dear brother, we have learned of the news of the hideous crime committed today in Riyadh in the form of a wicked attack in which innocent people were killed and injured.

We denounce this criminal attack, express solidarity with the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, offer you and the victims' families our sincere condolences, and offer the injured in this crime our condolences and sympathies. We pray to God to save your happy kingdom from all harm, maintain the grace of stability, give you long life, and preserve you with His protection and care to continue your assiduous work for the service of your country, and for the benefit of Islam and Muslims under the aegis of safety and tranquillity, for God Almighty listens to prayers. [passage omitted]

Your brother, Hassan II, King of Morocco.

Sudan

Official: 'Bright Star' Directed Against Nation

NC1411093195 Cairo MENA in Arabic
0655 GMT 14 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Khartoum, 14 Nov (MENA)—The Sudanese regime is trying to take advantage of the Bright Star exercise under way in Egypt to gain the sympathy of the Sudanese people and incite them against Egypt. The regime is deluding the Sudanese into thinking that the exercises are aimed against Sudan.

Abu-al-Qasim Muhammad Ibrahim, chairman of the Political and Mobilization Committee at the Sudanese Transitional Council (parliament), told the Sudanese newspaper AL-RA'Y AL-AKHAR that Sudan is now going through an important stage, where the struggle around the country is intensifying to shake Sudan's internal stability and harm its unity and free decisionmaking.

The maneuvers now taking place in Egypt under the name of "Bright Star" are not a coincidence, he said. He said Uganda and its allies, the engineers of the new world order and their supporters, should have learned the lesson from Uganda's attempt to invade Sudan in the seventies, an attempt that ended in failure.

Ibrahim said in his statement published today that Sudan, thanks to its capabilities and full official and popular alertness, is fully ready to repulse the aggression on every front.

He said the Mobilization Committee is playing an important role in this regard and noted the importance of the trade unions and societies mobilizing their members.

SPLM Leader Cited on Current Situation

MM1311163195 London [illegible]-HAYAH in Arabic
11 Nov 95 p 7

[Telephone interview with SPLM leader John Garang "at his military headquarters in southern Sudan" by Nizar Daww-al-Na'im in London; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Daww-al-Na'im] What is the truth about the current fighting in southern Sudan, particularly as one of your commanders has announced that your forces are getting close to the town of Juba?

[Garang] The current situation is fully in favor of the Sudanese People's Liberation Movement [SPLM]. We are fighting according to our plan. Juba is a part of Sudan. Our aim is to proceed to points from which we would be able to attack the forces of the National Islamic Front [NIF]. Juba is certainly within our reach. Al-Bashir's government has created many weak points for itself. We will pick our targets as we move on.

[Daww-al-Na'im] What do you mean by that? Are you continuing the same attack?

[Garang] I cannot discuss my plans in the media. All I can say is that the movement's plan is going well.

[Daww-al-Na'im] One of your commanders has stated that you plan to attack Malakal and then Juba.

[Garang] Our plan is to bring down the NIF regime in order to promote peace and prosperity in Sudan and ensure Sudan's unity. So long as the NIF is in power unity will be threatened and people will suffer. The only guarantee of the country's unity is the removal of that regime, and that would bring peace.

[Daww-al-Naim] What is the aim of this offensive?

[Garang] The aim of this offensive is to destroy the NIF's ability to wage war on us and on the Sudanese people, because that front is waging war on the Sudanese and recruiting young people in the north to be sent to the battlefield to be killed. That is why I say that it is fighting the people in the north and south. The aim of the attack is to prevent the NIF from doing that, render it incapable of attacking the Sudanese people again, and bring about a collapse of its forces.

[Daww-al-Na'im] Could you give us the names of the towns and villages brought under your control since the beginning of the attack on 25 October?

[Garang] On the 25th we began taking control of Barajuk, Pulataka, Awinkul, Abu, Magwe, Banyukura, Ami, the Juba-Nimule crossroads, Muli, Faqiri, and Luwa. We are besieging the government forces in Aswa. We will now (Thursday evening) continue the attack in the direction of Juba [all names except Juba as transliterated].

[Daww-al-Na'im] Are you 36 km from the town?

[Garang] Our forces are close to Juba.

[Daww-al-Na'im] Would you say that the movement has lost all faith in the peace efforts, especially the initiative of the Intergovernmental Authority on Drought and Development [IGADD], and has therefore resorted to the military option?

[Garang] No, we cannot say that. We are committed to the peace process and the IGADD efforts. You may recall that our movement adopted the declaration of principles proposed by IGADD but the Sudanese Government rejected that declaration of principles. It was the Sudanese Government which began attacking us, and it controlled Lavun and Kaya [as transliterated] and repeatedly tried to control Nimoli. And this time it was preparing to attack us again. The truth is that we did not start the attack bur rather repulsed and foiled the government's attack with a preemptive action. The peace process is still on and we are committed to it. What the Sudanese Government should do is accept the declaration of principles.

[Daww-al-Na'im] Dr. Riak Mashar, leader of the Southern Sudan Independence Movement [SSIM], recently announced that his forces were ready to join you in the attack on the government forces. Have you received anything to that effect. Has there been any coordination?

[Garang] I have no knowledge of that announcement, but my information is that Commanders William Neon and John Luke have taken control of the movement from Riak Mashar and that they control the areas of Kobbe, Wa'th, and Ayod, and that they and others are fighting the government forces.

[Daww-al-Na'im] How do you view the government's affirmation that you are getting aid and fighters from Uganda?

[Garang] That is nonsense. The Sudanese Government said that Ugandans and Tanzanians were fighting on the side of the government [as published] and spoke about Ethiopian and Eritrean aid, which is not true. Its aim is to cover up its lies to the public when it said that the war was over and that all that remained was establishing peace from within, as well as reconstruction. Now the SPLM has launched a major offensive, an embarrassment to the government because it does not know how to explain that to the public. That is why it talked about participation of the Ugandans or Tanzanians on our side in the fighting. There are no fighters from Uganda or Tanzania fighting in southern Sudan . The Government knows that we control all the western area of the Equatoria Province under al-Bashir's regime [al-Bashir's administrative structure]. Their aim is to find an acceptable explanation of the current attack and look for a reason for mobilizing northern public opinion in support of the regime on ethnic and religious grounds. That is mere propaganda and it will not succeed because the SPLM is not only for the southerners. It is open to everyone, Muslims, Christians, Northerners, and Southerners. We are not against Islam or the Arabs. Many in our country are of Arab origin and many are Muslims.

[Daww-al-Na'im] You speak of a Sudanese cause, but the first thing your movement did was hand over Ugandan rebels to the Ugandan Government. How do you explain that in the light of what you have been saying?

[Garang] Those were individuals we found in Sudanese Government garrisons in Barajuk, Wankubul, and Bulataka. When we captured them we questioned them and they said that they wanted to go back to their country. The Ugandan authorities assured us that they would not harm them.

[Daww-al-Na'im] Were they Ugandan rebels or civilians?

[Garang] They said that they were abducted by force and that they wanted to go back to their country.

[Daww-al-Na'im] So they were not rebels.

[Garang] They said that they did not come willingly and asked us to allow them to return to their country. Their government promised to treat them well. What choice do we have in such a case?

[Daww-al-Na'im] Handing them over.

[Garang] We did not hand them over. We allowed them to return to their country.

[Daww-al-Na'im] After his meeting with Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni, Libyan Leader Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi announced that they agreed to end the fighting and tension on the border ....

[Garang] End the fighting between whom?

[Daww-al-Na'im] End the tension on the border.

[Garang] That is a matter between Libya and Uganda. As far as the SPLM is concerned, we are fighting the NIF regime. We have fought the Khartoum regimes which have come and gone over the past 13 years. So I have no comment on that because it is a matter which concerns Uganda and Libya. Our war is with the NIF regime. For your information, the SPLM is older than the Kampala and Khartoum governments. We started the fighting in 1983. Al-Bashir came to power in 1989, and Museveni's government came to power in 1986.

[Daww-al-Na'im] Has there been any improvement in your relations with Libya?

[Garang] We want to improve our relations with all our neighbors including Libya.

[Daww-al-Na'im] Two weeks ago the British magazine THE ECONOMIST reported that Eritrean President Isaias Afwerki had confirmed his willingness to supply arms to the Sudanese opposition. What is the state of your relations with Eritrea and Ethiopia, particularly as there has been some talk about reopening your offices in Addis Ababa?

[Garang] That is not true. We have not opened offices in Addis Ababa or Asmara, but it is our policy to improve our relations with all our neighbors in Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Uganda, Zaire, Central Africa, Chad, Libya, and Egypt, and across the Red Sea. We want friendly relations with all. We do not want the Sudanese people to be isolated, which is what al-Bashir and the NIF have done to them.

[Daww-al-Na'im] Will you be going to Cairo to attend the National Democratic Grouping [NDG] conference?

[Garang] Yes, I will attend the meeting, if I get an entry visa to Cairo.

[Daww-al-Na'im] Last June the NDG adopted resolutions in favor of self-determination for the south and military action to topple the government. What are the results of these resolutions on the ground and on your current war against the government?

[Garang] Politically speaking, the political agreement on self-determination, the four-year transitional period, and the referendum are all valid resolutions. We in the NDG agreed that if the regime fell we would stop the (military) operations. As regards the military operations on the ground, we are now launching a major offensive. That has the blessings of the entire NDG. I have spoken to most of its leadership members. They fully support this SPLM effort. The current operations in the south coincide with the uprising in Khartoum. That is a positive point and it is an implementation of the Asmara agreement.

[Daww-al-Na'im] Does that represent the support you are getting from the opposition in the north?

[Garang] We are a part of the opposition and we are an active member of the grouping.

[Daww-al-Na'im] International pressure on the Sudanese Government has recently increased. What do you want from the international community and what do you want from the neighboring states?

[Garang] We seek humanitarian aid for the civilian population which is suffering greatly as a result of the war. That is my first appeal. It is an appeal addressed to the international community and to the Arab world. We are getting some humanitarian aid from the international community, but the Arab world has fallen behind in this respect. In the NDG we have Dr. Amin Makki, the NDG's official in charge of relief affairs. Aid can be channeled through the NDG and its relief office.

Secondly, we want the international community to isolate Sudan further because it is violating human rights and because its regime is a dictatorial regime, even if that is done through the imposition of sanctions and a ban on arms for the NIF's government. That would be in the interest of the Sudanese people because it would achieve peace.

[Daww-al-Na'im] There is some talk about raising the Sudan issue at the Security Council....

[Garang] We, of course, support that because we want our voice as a movement and opposition to be heard at the Security Council. Yes, we support taking the Sudan issue to the Security Council.

[Daww-al-Na'im] When we consider the past 13 years of war, we see that there has been much destruction in the south. The number of victims has been estimated at 1.2 million. Where is the country heading? Must the situation continue this way? How do you feel about what is happening?

[Garang] That is a very tragic situation, of course. We in the SPLM want peace established as soon as possible and we want an end to the ongoing destruction in southern Sudan and the other regions. The NIF regime has completely ruined the country. The situation is worse in the south because a war is raging there. The situation in the Nubian mountains (in the west) is even worse than in the south. Children are abducted and ethnic cleansing is continuing in these mountains.

That is a tragedy and we in the SPLM are saddened by that, but we must look at the cause, which is that the governments which have come and gone in Khartoum since 1956 (the country's independence) have completely failed to create a Sudan embracing all its people regardless of race, religion, or local political considerations. That failure made some citizens feel excluded and feel that they have no way of exercising their humanitarian, political, and democratic rights. They have, therefore, taken up arms more than once. They took up arms in the Anyanya (armed movement in the south) for 17 years. Now they have been taking up arms under the SPLM for 13 years.

My appeal to the Sudanese is about the need to stop the war. The only way to stop it is to get rid of the NIF regime and replace it with a regime belonging to all the Sudanese.

[Daww-al-Na'im] So there is no point in negotiations between you and the current Sudanese Government.

[Garang] I am not saying that. We are ready for negotiations as [I said] when you asked about the IGADD talks. The Sudanese Government is the party rejecting talks.

[Daww-al-Na'im] What I understood just now is that you fully link the solution of the problem to a change of regime. So there is now a precondition for solving the problem, namely the downfall of the regime....

[Garang] We are committed to negotiation with the government in office in Khartoum. That is our constant position. We negotiated with the government which was in office before the NIF regime's government and we negotiated with the NIF two months after it assumed power and then later in Nairobi and in the first and second rounds of the Abuja talks, and we participated in the IGADD negotiations. What I am saying is that we are still prepared to negotiate, but the government refuses and talks about peace from within.

[Daww-al-Na'im] We have taken much of your time.

[Garang] (laughing) You see how democratic I am, and they accuse me of being a dictator.

GCC Secretariat Condemns Riyadh Bomb Attack

LD1311231295 Riyadh Saudi Arabian Kingdom Radio Network in Arabic 2230 GMT 13 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The General Secretariat of the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] has condemned the explosion that occurred in Riyadh today. The statement released tonight said that the General Secretariat strongly condemned and denounced this evil criminal act, which caused the death of innocent people and injured others, and caused alarm among civilians in this peaceful city.

The statement added: This ugly crime, which is alien to the communities of the GCC member states and their values, and which is incompatible with the teachings of our true religion, will not undermine their security and stability. These sick minds and the hands that planned and carried out this abominable crime will not achieve their goals and will not escape from justice.

The statement also said that the General Secretariat presents its heartfelt condolences and sympathies to the families of the victims and wishes a speedy recovery to the injured.

Bahrain

Foreign Ministry Condemns 'Criminal Blast' in Riyadh

LD1311224795 Riyadh SPA in English
2018 GMT 13 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Manama, Nov 13, SPA — The State of Bahrain on Monday [13 November] sharply condemned the criminal blast which occurred in Riyadh Monday morning.

In a statement, an official source of the Bahraini Foreign Ministry said the subversive incident in Riyadh this morning, which led to deaths and injuries of the innocent people 'is a crime and an alien act and contradicts with the social and religious values of the society.'

The source expressed confidence that the Saudi leadership is 'capable of confronting such irresponsible and subversive acts and expressed full solidarity of the Bahraini leadership and people with the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia against anything that threatens the security and stability of the kingdom.'

Kuwait

Foreign Minister Condemns Riyadh Explosion

LD1311224195 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic
2140 GMT 13 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Kuwait, 13 Nov (KUNA) — Shaykh Sabah al-Jabir al-Sabah, first deputy prime minister and foreign minister, has expressed Kuwait's strong condemnation and denunciation of the explosion that occurred in Riyadh in the sisterly kingdom of Saudi Arabia and which (?affected) innocent people, caused the death of six of them, and injured over 60 others.

Shaykh Sabah said in a statement to KUNA that "this subversive act is an abominable crime and a blatant transgression of the teachings of our merciful law [Islam], the traditions of our society, and our humanitarian and moral principles."

The first deputy prime minister and foreign minister added: "Kuwait, which affirms its absolute support for the dear Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in facing up to everything which might harm its security, stability, and territorial integrity, at the same time expresses its total confidence in the ability of the kingdom under the leadership of King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, custodian of the two holy mosques, may God protect him, his wise government, and the fraternal Saudi people, to confront the evil and criminal forces."

He also expressed Kuwait's heartfelt condolences for the innocent lives which were lost and its sincere wishes of speedy recovery for the injured.

Saudi Arabia

Reportage on Explosion in Riyadh, Casualties

King Urges Security To Find 'Criminals'

LD1311203295 Riyadh SPA in Arabic
1752 GMT 13 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Riyadh, 13 Nov (SPA) — His Royal Highness Prince Nayif Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, the interior minister, briefed the Council of Ministers on the details of the explosions [as given] that took place today in Riyadh that a responsible Interior Ministry source issued a statement on earlier today.

The Council of Ministers expressed its condemnation and denunciation of this criminal incident, which is alien to our society, values, and teachings of our religion.

King Fahd Bin-'Abd-'al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, custodian of the two holy mosques, called on the responsible security apparatus to continue performing their security mission to maintain the security of the homeland and citizens, to adopt all sufficient measures to search for the criminal or criminals who were behind this criminal incident, and to continue to intensify the work of all the security apparatus to deter, avert, and preserve security and stability in the kingdom.

That came in the Council of Ministers' meeting, over which King Fahd presided over today, Monday, 20

Jumada al-Akhirah [13 November], at al-Yamamah Palace in Riyadh.

On another issue, King Fahd, may God preserve him, dealt with the current situation of the Saudi economy, stressing that the Saudi Government is continuing its efforts to consolidate local economic stability and create a suitable atmosphere for achieving continued economic growth.

King Fahd, may God protect him, said that "the issue of the financial deficit included numerous countries, a matter that indicates this phenomenon is a general, and not an individual, phenomenon." [passage omitted]

King Fahd talked about the financial situation of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and said: "The kingdom has managed, thanks to God, to overcome the financial difficulties it went through and that are less serious than described by the world press. Furthermore, Saudi Arabia is today in a better economic situation as a result of the economic measures it has taken."

Information Minister Fu'ad Bin 'Abd-al-Salam al-Farisi, in a statement to SPA at the end of the cabinet session, said that King Fahd had referred in this respect to the reduction of the financial [as received] deficit in the first half of this year to 2 percent in the gross domestic product, while the deficit stood at about 9 percent in 1994.

King Fahd said: "The deficit in the foreign current account has dropped to 2 percent in the gross domestic product, while this deficit stood at 8 percent in 1994 [figure as received]."

At a local level, and after examining numerous issues concerning the citizens, the king discussed a number of economic and technical issues relating to the best exploitation of oil and precious and non-precious minerals [as received] recently discovered in Saudi Arabia by a group of excellent Saudi geologists. In this respect the king stressed the importance of the private sector for investments in the area of minerals with a view to achieving further economic stability and continuous development, which will have a positive effect on the citizens' living standards. [passage omitted]

The beloved king said: "The security of the Gulf Cooperation Council's [GCC] countries concerns the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia; therefore, the kingdom is keen on cooperation with the other gulf countries in the sphere of security at all levels."

His Excellency Dr. al-Farisi pointed out that King Fahd reviewed after that the current conditions on the Arab, Islamic, and international arenas.

King Fahd expressed deep anguish and regret for the continued fighting between the clashing factions in Afghanistan. He appealed to all the quarreling sides in Afghanistan to put the national interests of the Afghan people before everything else, stop the bloodshed, and sit at the negotiating table to reach a compromise that achieves security and stability in the whole of Afghanistan. [passage omitted]

Crown Prince Visits Blast Scene

LD1311185895 Riyadh SPA in Arabic
1748 GMT 13 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Riyadh, 13 Nov (SPA) — His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdallah-Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, crown prince, deputy prime minister, and commander of the National Guard, visited the scene of today's explosion in Riyadh at 1330 this afternoon.

His royal highness inspected the measures taken by the competent authorities. He then met with Raymond Mabus, the U.S. ambassador to Saudi Arabia, and General Larry Smith, the director of the project to develop the National Guard. His royal highness asked them to convey the condolences of King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, the custodian of the two holy mosques, as well as His Royal Highness' own condolences, to His Excellency President Clinton and the families of the deceased. His royal highness wished the injured a speedy recovery.

The U.S. ambassador and General Smith expressed their thanks for this kind gesture from the custodian of the two holy mosques and his royal highness the crown prince. They said: "We will not allow such incidents to affect us or our performance of our duty anywhere." [passage omitted]

Official Calls Blast 'Isolated' Incident

LD1411132195 Riyadh SPA in Arabic
2058 GMT 13 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] London 13 Nov — Dr. Ghazi al-Qusaybi, ambassador of the custodian of the two holy mosques to the United Kingdom and Ireland, said today that the blast which took place in Riyadh today "does not reflect in any way on the stability of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia." Dr. al-Qusaybi said in a news conference that every country in the world, including the superpowers, have experienced such incidents. He affirmed that the incident was an isolated one and all indications confirm this. The Kingdom's government announced immediately all the known facts, he added.

He expressed his confidence that those responsible for this coward incident will be arrested and that the truth will be known.

Ministry Says 5 Americans, 1 Filipino Killed

LD1311214895 Riyadh SPA in Arabic
2125 GMT 13 Nov 95

[Statement issued by an "official source" at the Interior Ministry; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] Riyadh, 13 Nov (SPA) — As a follow-up to the statement made this afternoon about the criminal explosion which occurred in Riyad City, it has emerged that the person who had not been identified then was a U.S. national.

The source added that in the light of this the, death toll includes five Americans and one Filipino.

U.S. Ambassador Confirms Casualties

NC1311152595 Paris AFP in English
1509 GMT Nov 13 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Riyadh, Nov 13 (AFP) - Five Americans were killed and more than 30 others wounded, some seriously, when a bomb ripped through a building used by US military officials in Riyadh on Monday [13 November], US Ambassador Raymond Mabus said.

"There are five Americans known dead and more than 30 injured, some seriously," the ambassador said in a statement released by the embassy.

The injured were being taken care of at local hospitals, he added.

The blast also killed a sixth person, a Filipino, a Saudi interior ministry official said earlier.

Embassy officials said they believed it was a car bomb but the ambassador said there was no immediately confirmation of this, saying only it was the result of an "explosive device."

U.S. Embassy: 6th Victim Not Filipino

NC1411133095 Paris AFP in English
1309 GMT 14 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] Riyadh, Nov 14 (AFP)— The sixth person killed in Monday's [13 November] bombing of US military offices in Saudi Arabia was not a Filipino as previously reported, a US embassy spokesman said Tuesday [14 November].

"We now have information that the sixth person is a non-American, possibly a Saudi, but not a Filipino," spokesman Samir Kuttab told AFP. [passage omitted]

Baghdad TV: New Organization Claims Blast

JN1411131095 Baghdad Iraq Television Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 14 Nov 95

[Announcer-read report]

[FBIS Translated Text] An American FBI delegation, which arrived in Riyadh today, began to examine the debris resulting from the huge blast which occurred yesterday at a building housing an American military mission that supervises an American training program for the Saudi Arabian National Guard. The explosion killed five Americans and wounded 100 others.

In a new development, the Combatant Partisans of God Organization [munazzamat ansar allah al-muqatilah] claimed responsibility for the explosion, asserting that this attack is the beginning of its activities until all U.S. forces leave Saudi Arabia. This is the third group to claim responsibility for the explosion.

Rights Group Expects More Bombings

NC1411132895 Paris AFP in English
1307 GMT 14 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Nicosia, Nov 14 (AFP)— Young Saudi militants acting independently of opposition groups may carry out more bombings like the one that killed six people at US military offices in Riyadh, an Islamist opposition leader said on Tuesday [14 November].

"We think it (Monday's bombing) is a natural result of the repression which began more than a year ago," Sa'id al-Faqih, head of the London office of the Committee for the Defense of Legitimate Rights (CDLR), told AFP.

Many older activists who "were able to control and calm down the younger members" were arrested at the time, al-Faqih told AFP when contacted by telephone in London.

Young Saudis "have at this time no means to express themselves other than by violence," he added.

"We should not be surprised that such an act was committed and we should not be surprised if there are more," he warned.

"We don't know the perpetrators of this attack but we know that there is more than one group inside the kingdom which plans violent attacks," he said.

"These groups are well trained and have decided to attack sensitive targets," he added.

In September 1994, the Saudi police arrested more than 1,000 activists demanding political reform, according to the CDLR. Many of them were arrested in Buraydah, around 300 kilometers (180 miles) northeast of Riyadh.

Al-Faqih did not openly condemn the attack on Monday although he stressed that his group used "peaceful means of protest like sit- ins, meetings and the distribution of pamphlets."

"The situation in the kingdom is not as stable in the kingdom as it appears from the outside, and things are deteriorating," he said.

"If the Saudi regime and the Americans want to prevent such attacks from recurring, it will be useless for them to take security measures or hunt down the perpetrators," he said.

"The people must have their say about the American presence in Saudi Arabia and relations with the Americans," he said.

Banned immediately after it was founded in Saudi Arabia in 1993, the strictly Islamist CDLR includes university professors and Moslem clerics who accuse King Fahd of being corrupt and criticize him for his "undemocratic methods."

They also demand political reform.

Arab Leaders React to Explosion in Riyadh

Jordan's King Husayn, Yemen's Salih

LD1311225395 Riyadh SPA in English
2008 GMT 13 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Riyadh, Nov 13, SPA — Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz received today a telephone call from Yemen's President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih who sharply deplored the criminal explosion in Riyadh on Monday [13 November].

King Fahd also received today a telephone call from King Husayn of Jordan who conemned the criminal act.

King Fahd thanked President Salih and King Husayn for their noble and brotherly feelings and expressed his best wishes to the Yemeni and Jordanian peoples.

The Saudi monarch received today a telephone call from Shaykh 'Isa Bin-Salman Al Khalifah, the amir of Bahrain, who strongly deplored the criminal blast. The king thanked the amir for his brotherly feelings.

For his part, Crown Prince 'Abdallah Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, the deputy premier and commander of the National Guard, received today a telephone call from Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah, the crown prince and prime minister of Kuwait, who condemned the criminal act.

PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat

LD1311231595 Riyadh SPA in Arabic
2235 GMT 13 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Riyadh, 13 Nov (SPA) — King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, custodian of the two holy mosques, received a telephone call from His Excellency Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat this evening.

During the call, the Palestinian president condemned the explosion in Riyadh today, describing it as a disgraceful criminal act lying outside the teachings of the magnanimous Islamic faith.

For his part, the beloved king, may God preserve him, thanked President 'Arafat, and expressed the hope that security, peace, and stability will prevail throughout the world.

Lebanese Prime Minister al-Hariri

LD1411114595 Riyadh SPA in Arabic
1104 GMT 14 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Riyadh, 14 Nov (SPA) — The custodian of the two holy mosques has received a telephone call from His Excellency Lebanese Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri.

His excellency condemned the criminal blast which occurred in Riyadh yesterday. He stated the Lebanese Government's denunciation of this evil attack, while praying to God to protect the Kingdom under the leadership of the custodian of the two holy mosques from any harm and to keep it as an oasis of security and stability. [passage omitted]

Qatari Amir Al Thani

LD1311222095 Riyadh SPA in Arabic
2047 GMT 13 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Riyadh, 13 Nov (SPA) — This evening King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, custodian of the two holy mosques, received a telephone call from His Highness Shaykh Hamad Bin-Khalifah Al Thani, amir of Qatar. His highness expressed his condemnation and denunciation of the blast incident which took place in Riyadh shortly before noon today. [passage omitted]

Moroccan King Hassan

LD1411114195 Riyadh SPA in Arabic
1045 GMT 14 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Rabat 14 Nov — Moroccan Monarch His Majesty King Hassan II denounced yesterday's explosion in Riyadh. He described it as an abominable crime and an evil aggression which led to killing and injuring the innocent.

He sent a cable to his brother the custodian of the two holy mosques [King Fahd] which was carried by the Moroccan news agency. In it he said: "We denounce this criminal aggression. We commiserate with the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and offer you and the victims' families our sincere condolences and offer our consolations and sympathies to the injured."

Papers Comment on Riyadh Blast

NC1411101695 Paris AFP in English
0958 GMT 14 Nov 95

[Report by Suleiman Nimr]

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] Riyadh, Nov 14 (AFP)—Saudi authorities on Tuesday [14 November] deployed security forces around foreign housing compounds as they searched for suspects in a car bombing which killed five Americans and one Filipino at US military offices here. [passage omitted]

Saudi national guardsmen and policemen were seen on Tuesday posted at the entrances to compounds where Americans, British, and other Westerners live in the capital, while police cars patrolled the streets.

Saudi newspapers said it was just a matter of time before the security services found the perpetrators that attacked the Office of the Program Manager for the Saudi Arabian National Guard.

"The Saudi legal system will inflict on the perpetrator or perpetrators of this crime the punishment that they deserve," the AL-JAZIRAH daily said, adding the perpetrators would be caught because of the security forces' competence."

US military officials meanwhile were seen removing files and furniture from the devastated building and loading them into trucks. The area was roped off to the public.

In Washington, a senior Pentagon official who asked not to be named said a small van exploded outside the building at a time when many people were eating lunch.

Among those claiming responsibility for the attack were the previously unknown groups called the "Tigers of the Gulf," and the "Islamic Movement for Change," he said.

A man claiming to be from Tigers of the Gulf called AFP to say his group had carried out the bombing to force US troops to leave Saudi Arabia.

The Pentagon official ruled out a pullout of forces from the country where the United States has had military presence for 50 years. "This has been a very stable environment for the US presence," the official said.

Raymond Mabus, the US Ambassador here, said: "This was the work of cowards and will not deter our mission in Saudi Arabia."

The Saudi newspaper AL-YAWM said the attack "served no political goal" and that it was "a vain attempt to destabilize the kingdom."

"This attack is doomed to fail because one of the Saudi government's priorities is to ensure security and search for the criminals," it said.

"This terrorist and criminal attack is an act foreign to our society, which has strong religious and moral values," it said.

Three of the more than 30 Americans wounded were in critical condition in the hospital late in the evening, while eight others were in surgery, US Embassy spokesman Jeffrey Thomas told AFP on Tuesday.

The US military was meanwhile making arrangements to fly home the one military member and four civilians who were killed, he added. [passage omitted]

According to the latest casualty update from the US embassy, five Americans were killed and 37 wounded, including 24 who were still in hospital on Tuesday.

Exiled Opposition Leader Warns King's Life at Risk

BR1411095195 Milan CORRIERE DELLA SERA in Italian 14 Nov 95 p 6

[Telephone interview with Muhammad al-Mas'ari, "major figure in Saudi opposition abroad," in London, by Guido Olimpio, in Milan, on 14 November: "The Sovereign's Life Is in Danger" — first paragraph is introduction]

[FBIS Translated Text] "King Fahd's life could also be at risk," Muhammad al-Mas'ari, a major figure in Saudi opposition abroad, told me over the phone from London. A university professor aged 48, with two wives and eight children, this dissident set up the Committee for the Defense of Legitimate Rights in 1993 along with other people from the worlds of religion and culture. For that reason he was thrown into jail and tortured. On his release, Mas'ari fled to Britain, from where he keeps in close contact with secret cells inside Saudi Arabia. "My men operate even within the royal family," he maintained, "in the household of the al-Sa'ud family or perhaps I should call it the dinosaur family." He receives many collect calls: "That is why I just paid a 70 million lire [$43,000] phone bill," he explained.

[Olimpio] Is the bomb attack a bad sign for the regime in Riyadh?

[Al-Mas'ari] The regime must change and make room for a democratic system where human rights and freedoms are respected.

[Olimpio] Is it true that there are strong internal rivalries?

[Al-Mas'ari] Clashes between the princes are continuous and the stability of power could be jeopardized by their ambitions. After dilapidating the nation's resources and revealing their corrupt faces, the men in the family clans are seeking to consolidate their own positions. There are risks for everyone, including King Fahd, in this internecine war.

[Olimpio] Last year the influential Prince Salman [name as published] urged the sovereign to initiate dialogue with the fundamentalists. What do you think of that?

[Al-Mas'ari] It is true. Salman is well known for being willing to listen to the man in the street. I would say that he is more intelligent and more open than the others. But he is also the most hypocritical: His overtures are only apparent and he aims really only to stay in the saddle.

[Olimpio] In the past you have not ruled out a coup d'etat.

[Al-Mas'ari] The military could decide to intervene to bring the situation back under control. But that will only happen with the consent of the Americans, the real bosses.

[Olimpio] What solution does your movement propose?

[Al-Mas'ari] A multiparty system, democracy, and the implementation of the Shari'ah, the Islamic law. We want a pure, nonaligned Saudi Arabia and, above all, one which is free from foreign forces. The West seeks to dominate our country culturally and militarily, and that is unacceptable.

Paper Says Riyadh Bombing Made U.S 'Tremble'

NC1411123995 Paris AFP in English
1122 GMT 14 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Baghdad, Nov 14 (AFP)—Iraq said Tuesday [14 November] that the bombing of U.S. military offices in Riyadh had shaken the government of Saudi Arabia and that it might lead to "dramatic events" in the country.

"The Tigers of the Gulf have shaken the Saudi throne and made Washington tremble," the official AL-QADISIYAH newspaper said.

An anonymous telephone caller who said he belonged to the "Tigers of the Gulf," a previously unknown group, said it carried out the attack in a bid to drive U.S. military forces from Saudi Arabia. The Pentagon said the group "Islamic Movement for Change" also claimed responsibility for it.

"Will the explosion in Riyadh lead to dramatic events in Saudi Arabia?" the official AL-JUMHURIYAH newspaper asked.

It also quoted a European diplomat as saying the bombing is "a very serious message to the Saudi and American people around the world, which expresses feelings that have been repressed for more than five years."

A number of Saudis distributed cassettes and spoke out in the mosques against the U.S. military buildup in Saudi Arabia during the runup to the US-led Gulf war to drive Iraqi forces from Kuwait in January 1991.

The diplomat who was not identified said the attack "shows that the Saudi opposition has regrouped and launched an armed struggle against American forces in Saudi Arabia."

The diplomat who said he had served in Saudi Arabia during the start of the 1990s said that "many Saudis were strongly opposed to the war with Iraq and hostile to the presence of U.S. troops."

It is rare for an Iraqi newspaper to quote a Western diplomat.

The newspaper also quoted an Arab ambassador here who said the attack "confirms reports from diplomatic circles and intelligence services that a secret Saudi opposition movement exists."

"This opposition has supporters within the national guard, the army and Saudi intelligence and even among some princes," according to the ambassador who was not identified.

Riyadh Blast Said 'Struggle Against U.S. Presence'

JN1411124395 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic
1200 GMT 14 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Iraqi newspapers said that yesterday's explosion in Riyadh demonstrates that Saudi opposition has begun its struggle against the United States' presence in the region. Citing an anonymous Western diplomat in Baghdad, AL-JUMHURIYAH newspaper says that the incident is a serious message addressed by the Saudi people to America and the world, expressing feelings that have been hidden for more than five years. The paper adds that the incident shows that the opposition has reorganized its ranks. AL-JUMHURIYAH says that the Western diplomat's remarks disclose a clear stand vis-a-vis the United States, adding that this stand reveals sympathy toward Iraq.

U.S. Delegates to Kurdish Talks Reportedly Arrive

JN1311213295 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Kurdistan in Arabic 1800 GMT 13 Nov 95

[Names as heard]

[FBIS Translated Text] The U.S. delegation supervising negotiations between the Kurdistan Democratic Party and the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan arrived in Salah-al-Din on 12 November.

The delegation is led by Mr. Dave, head of the northern Gulf section in the U.S. State Department; Mr. Stephen Brammer, from the National Security Council; Susan Maternick, the political adviser at the Incerlik base; and Mr. Richard McKay, the political adviser at the U.S. Embassy in Ankara.

The delegation offered condolences to our party leader, Mas'ud Barzani, and to brother Nashirwan Barzani on the death of his mother.

The first session of talks began at 1100 on 13 July. It was attended for the KDP by Sami 'Abd-al-Rahman, Jawhar Namiq Salim, Roz Nuri Shawiz, and Hushayr Zibari, Political Bureau members; and Muhsin Reza'i, personal representative of the party leader.

It was also attended by Ahmad al-Jalabi, head of the executive council of the Iraqi National Congress; and a representative of the Turkish Foreign Ministry.

On 13 November, the party met with our party leader Maz'ud Barzani, who welcomed the guest delegation and stressed the importance of these talks and our people's need and desire to establish just and firm peace in Kurdistan. He said that he will do his utmost to realize this objective.

The abovementioned sides held a second round of talks lasting several hours, and there was joint understanding on many issues under discussion.

It is to be noted that the first round of talks was held in Drogheda in Ireland last August and the second in Dublin last September.

Foreign Ministry Condemns U.S. Visit

JN1411130295 Baghdad Iraq Television Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 14 Nov 95

[Announcer-read report]

[FBIS Translated Text] A Foreign Ministry spokesman condemned the illegal entry into northern Iraq by someone named Robert (Dodge), head of northern Gulf affairs in the U.S. State Department [title as heard], for talks with the Kurdish rebels' cliques there on behalf of the U.S. Government.

The spokesman added: The Iraqi Government strongly condemns this clumsy U.S. move, which reflects a hostile U.S. policy based on methods cherished by outlaws.

The spokesman indicated that the only solution to the abnormal and tragic situation created by the Americans and their agents in northern Iraq lies in an end to the rebellion, rejection of foreign intervention, the return of Kurdish parties to the national fold, and rehabilitation of the rule of Iraqi national law in the autonomous rule governorates.

SAIRI Reports Leader's Meeting With Talabani

NC0911142495 Paris AFP in English 1357 GMT 9 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Nov 9 (AFP)—Iraqi opposition leaders Jalal Talabani and Ayatollah Mohammad Baqir al-Hakim have held talks in the Iranian capital on the situation in their country and joint efforts to topple President Saddam Husayn, an Iraqi dissident group said Thursday [9 November].

The Iran-based Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq (SAIRI) said its leader, al-Hakim, met late Tuesday with Talabani, head of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK).

Talabani's arrival in Iran was not officially announced and no information could be obtained on whether he was still here.

An official of the Shiite Moslem SAIRI told AFP the two sides stressed the need for unity between Iraqi opposition groups and creation of a "practical plan" on fighting Saddam's regime.

They discussed the presence of fighters from SAIRI's military arm in Kurdish-held northern Iraq to launch joint attacks against government forces.

The opposition's Iraqi National Congress said last week militiamen of the Badar Brigade had arrived south of the city of al-Sulaymaniyah.

The decision to deploy the rebels, who have in the past been active in mainly Shiite southern Iraq, in Iraqi Kurdistan was taken during talks in early October between al-Hakim and Iraqi Kurdish delegations in Tehran. No information has been provided on the number of fighters being deployed.

The Badar Brigade helped Iran during its 1980-1988 war against Iraq.

"The presence of Badar Brigade in northern Iraq has been in line with efforts to cooperate with other Iraqi opposition groups to topple Saddam's regime and establish democracy in Iraq," said the SAIRI official who requested anonymity.

It was Talabani's second visit to Iran since late September, when he also held talks with al-Hakim. There was also no information on whether the PUK leader would meet with officials of the rival Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP) here.

Representatives from the two main Kurdish factions in northern Iraq held talks in early October in Tehran to try to reach a settlement for northern Iraq.

The PUK and KDP have jointly controled northern Iraq in defiance of Baghdad since the aftermath of the 1991 Gulf war, but have clashed since May 1994 at a cost of 2,000 lives.

Al-Sahhaf: Rifkind's Statements on BW Sheer Lies

JN1311205795 Baghdad Iraq Television Network in Arabic 2000 GMT 13 Nov 95

[Announcer-read report]

[FBIS Translated Text] Commenting on statements made by British Foreign Secretary Malcolm Rifkind in Cairo on 11 November 1995, Foreign Minister Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf made the following statement to the IRAQI NEWS AGENCY:

The statements made by British Foreign Secretary Malcolm Rifkind in Cairo are full of lies and contradictions. Rifkind repeated the same allegations and baseless exaggerations on Iraq's former biological program, which was destroyed completely in 1991. The British secretary claimed that Iraq had hidden its biological program and that this raises questions about the weapons of mass destruction Iraq could be hiding. Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf said the British secretary's statement completely contradicts the truth. Iraq's former biological program was completely destroyed in 1991. The Special Commission and the Security Council had been aware of this program since the end of the 30-state military aggression against Iraq in March 1991. Iraq documented this fact in a detailed written statement made to the Special Commission and the Security Council in January 1992. In this statement, Iraq asserted that it did not possess or conceal any banned weapon or substance. This Iraqi statement is true and accurate.

Since then, dozens of inspection teams and experts have visited Iraq. Those people are equipped with high-tech devices. They checked all minute details, without finding anything that contradicts Iraq's assertions since the beginning of 1992.

As for the documents and information hidden by traitor Husayn Kamil and found after his escape and handed over to the Special Commission and the International Atomic Energy Agency, they are all part of the details of the previous programs which no longer exist. These details did not change anything regarding the established fact that Iraq does not possess any banned weapon or substance of what are called weapons of mass destruction.

The foreign minister said: Therefore, the British secretary's statements can only be described as sheer lies and empty claims aimed at creating confusion and suspicions to poison the media atmosphere and to negatively affect the positive and effective political atmosphere which has recently expanded as a result of the support by more popular forces and government for the growing popular and official public opinions in the Arab homeland and the world, which call for lifting the unjust blockade imposed on Iraq. United Arab Emirates President Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyn's initiative is a prominent example of the expansion of the positive political stands which call for lifting the unjust blockade clamped on Iraq, for achieving Arab reconciliation, and for healing the rift and heading toward the future with unified ranks to serve the Arab nation's interests.

Concluding his statement, the foreign minister said: The British Secretary Rifkind resorted to fallacies and lies against Iraq because he was annoyed by the growing Arab states' awareness, including that of the countries which are considered friends to Britain, of the fact that the anti-Iraq plan, which uses the unjust blockade as a pretext after the 30-state military aggression failed to achieve its true objective, has nothing to do with the so-called Gulf crisis or even with the relevant UN Security Council resolutions, especially since Iraq has fulfilled all the essential obligations enshrined in these resolutions.

Jordanian Detainees Released From Jails

*JN1411103695 Amman AL-HADATH in Arabic
15 Nov 95 p 1*

[FBIS Translated Text] Sources close to the Iraqi Government say that more than half of the Jordanians in Iraqi jails have been released and that the rest will be released soon.

AL-HADATH has written previously about the case of the Jordanian detainees in Iraqi jails. Dr. Dhib 'Abdallah, member of the House of Representatives, directed a question to Foreign Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabariti on this subject.

Opposition: Saddam Behind Threat to Jordan Airliner

JN1311161295 (Clandestine) Voice of Rebellious Iraq in Arabic 1515 GMT 13 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Amman — A number of diplomats in the Jordanian capital, Amman, believe that the recent bomb threat which a Jordanian airline received, forcing the plane to make an emergency landing in Vienna last Tuesday, is part of the Baghdad tyrant's sabotage plans against Jordan.

In statements published recently, the diplomats said that the Baghdad ruler is now trying to escalate the policy of terror and sabotage against Jordan and King Husayn because of the king's recent stands toward the Baghdad regime. They said that the Jordanian Government's restrictions of the movements of the Saddamist regime's diplomats in Amman and the reduction of their number has incensed Saddam.

It is noteworthy that Jordan is regarded as the only outlet for the isolated Baghdad regime and that the noticeable change in the Jordanian policy and Jordan's overtures toward the Gulf states and its abandonment of the Baghdad ruler means that Saddam's end is very near.

Official Condemns Ugandan 'Intervention' in Sudan

*JN1311155895 Baghdad INA in Arabic
1010 GMT 13 Nov 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 13 Nov (INA)—Sa'd Qasim Hammudi, secretary general of the Arab Popular Forces Conference [APFC], condemned the Ugandan military aggression against fraternal Sudan.

In a cable to the General Secretariat of the Khartoum-based Arab and Islamic Popular Conference, Hammudi added that the intervention of Ugandan troops in southern Sudan is part of an imperialist-Zionist scheme to partition Sudan. Hammudi also argued that this intervention is a serious threat to Sudan's national unity and that it is aimed at weakening the historical Arab-African ties.

The APFC secretary general emphasized the solidarity of Arab parties, associations, and figures with the Sudanese people and Armed Forces in their firm confrontation of this foreign intervention. He urged Uganda and others, for that matter, to respect Sudan's national sovereignty by halting all violations of its territorial integrity.

Car Bomb Explosion in Baghdad Reported

JN1311142195 (Clandestine) Voice of Rebellious Iraq in Arabic 1315 GMT 13 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Our sources in Baghdad said that a car bomb recently exploded in al-Nahadah square in Baghdad damaging some of the regime's facilities. No party claimed responsibility for the explosion.

Our sources added that some of regime's Republican Guard troops were recently deployed in three sites in Baghdad in case any attack targeting the despot' regime takes place. The sources added that these troops were positioned in Saddam's Hall near the international al-Sha'b Stadium, Abu-Gurayb base, and Bin-Khaldun base.

Shin Bet Criticized for Rabin Assassination

Said Given Warning of Assassination

TA1211060195 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0500 GMT 12 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The Shin Bet received a warning about a plan to assassinate Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin several weeks before the attack. Our Army affairs correspondent Karmela Menashe reports that several weeks before the murder, one of the conspirators realized that Yig'al 'Amir was serious about assassinating Rabin. The conspirator approached the police, described the assassin, and disclosed the fact that he was a student at Bar-Ilan University, as well as additional details. Nevertheless, the informer refused to reveal 'Amir's name and address claiming he did not want to betray his friends. The information was turned over to the Shin Bet, who failed to identify the assassin. After the murder, security officials interrogated the informer, were astonished to learn of his earlier confession, and released him from custody. In reaction, security sources said that the informer had not provided enough information to get the assassin.

Security officials have criticized the functioning of the Shin Bet, noting that Yig'al 'Amir and his friends pursued their activities for over a year without being discovered. Official sources said that another Shin Bet department head and his direct subordinates may have to resign if it comes about that there was an intelligence failure in exposing the conspiracy. In their opinion, if such a failure is indeed proved, the head of the Shin Bet will have to draw personal conclusions.

The number of those arrested in connection with the assassination has risen to eight with the arrest of an IDF [Israel Defense Forces] soldier from an elite commando unit and his father. Explosives and weapons were discovered at the soldier's home. The group that planned the assassination was formed two years ago and led by Yig'al and Hagay 'Amir. The investigation has revealed that the 'Amir brothers and other detainees attempted to assassinate Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin on eight occasions but failed. It also appears that several rabbis apparently sanctioned Yitzhaq Rabin's murder. [passage omitted]

Chief Criticized for Not Acting

TA1211105895 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1000 GMT 12 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The head of the Shin Bet said that approximately five months ago one of the members of the 'Amir group, 25-year-old Shlomi Halevi — who met Yig'al Amir while studying law at Bar-Ilan — told the intelligence officer at the IDF's [Israel Defense Forces] Central Command, who was his military commander, about the plans to assassinate Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin. Halevi did not reveal Yig'al 'Amir's name.

Shlomi Halevi said he overheard a conversation between two men at the Tel Aviv Central Bus Station, in which they said that a short Yemenite man was seriously planning to harm Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin. Shlomi Halevi was questioned by detectives from the Jerusalem Police central unit.

At the time, the police informed the Shin Bet that they believed the source was reliable and that the plan to carry out an assassination was serious and real.

Defense establishment sources criticized the Shin Bet and said that Yig'al 'Amir and his associates pursued their activities for over a year without being exposed by the Shin Bet.

Chief Explains Lack of Action

TA1211151295 Jerusalem Channel 2 Television Network in Hebrew 1400 GMT 12 Nov 95

[Announcer-read report]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The Shin Bet chief today issued a singular statement explaining why his organization had not handled a warning regarding a plan to assassinate the prime minister received from the police five months ago. According to the Shin Bet chief's statement, a man by the name of Shlomo Halevi informed the police in June that he had accidentally overheard a conversation between two men in public toilets at the central bus station in Tel Aviv. The two were discussing a short man of Yemenite looks who was religious and planning to assassinate Rabin. One speaker told the other: Look at this cool Yemenite; he is a runt, but he is cool. He is going to shoot Rabin. The other man asked whether the Yemenite would be able to find a weapon, and the first man replied in the affirmative.

The police thought Halevi was a serious and reliable man, and they conveyed a message in this spirit to the Shin Bet. The Shin Bet says today that it had received the police version concerning Halevi's reliability, but that his information contained nothing that could even start an investigation. [passage omitted]

The cabinet today voiced its confidence in the Shin Bet. Acting Prime Minister Shim'on Peres announced at the cabinet meeting today that he has full confidence in the Shin Bet chief. Regarding the service itself, Peres said it is the cream of the crop.

Cabinet Voices 'Full Support' for Shin Bet

TA1211160395 Jerusalem Government Press Office in English 12 Nov 95

["Cabinet communique" "communicated by the Cabinet Secretariat"; date not given]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] 1. The Cabinet, sitting as the Ministerial Committee on National Security, was briefed on security issues.

2. The Cabinet discussed the murder of the late Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin and the investigation being held as a result. The Acting Prime Minister — with the concurrence of all members of the Cabinet — concluded:

A. The Cabinet is neither investigating nor standing in judgment. At such difficult times, we will not turn ourselves into a commission of inquiry. The Cabinet will give full support to the General Security Service (GSS), and allow the state commission of inquiry to continue in its work.
B. The Acting Prime Minister requests that the media also allow the commission to work and the GSS to do its job.
C. The Acting Prime Minister informed the head of the GSS that he has full confidence in him.
D. The Acting Prime Minister said that as one who has enjoyed the protection of the GSS Personal Protection Unit for many years, he does not know of any group of people, more dedicated, and better prepared at all times to risk their lives. They are the best of the best.
E. The Acting Prime Minister emphasized that the GSS has not ceased operating and bearing responsibility in the face of security risks and the continuing battle against terrorism; the Cabinet must give its personnel full support.
F. The Acting Prime Minister vigorously denied the statements that were issued — supposedly by "Peres confidants" — regarding further dismissals, etc.
G. According to the Acting Prime Minister, all Cabinet members joined in praising the GSS in general, and the Personal Protection Unit in particular, at both today's Cabinet meeting and at the previous one.

Peres, Netanyahu Urge 'National Inquiry'

TA1311161495 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1500 GMT 13 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] At the memorial session the Knesset held today for Yitzhaq Rabin, Acting Prime Minister Shim'on Peres and Likud Chairman Binyamin Netanyahu called for a national inquiry into all the issues in a tough Knesset debate, but with tolerance and mutual respect.

Knesset Speaker Shevah Weiss, who opened the meeting, said that conciliation is vital, but that it must not serve as an escape route for those who prepared the ground for the terrible assassination. It is not enough to admit responsibility and leave it at that, Weiss said. There must be admission and change, he added. Freedom of expression is not freedom from shame.

Shim'on Peres said that in the week of mourning we discovered a young generation that wants to rekindle its fire. Peres said that Yitzhaq Rabin had wanted peace so that the young generation could free itself from the dilemmas of the leaders of this generation and have a fresh start in the next century. Mr. Peres said that we all want peace in addition to security and that we must remove the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] and security forces from any political dispute.

Netanyahu said that dispute is the essence of democracy and that without an opposition there is no democracy, but that we must fight aggressively and jointly to uproot anybody who incites people to violence. He said that we must also take care not to put blame on entire groups, such as religious people and Jewish settlers. The people expect conciliation and understanding, he said.

If Knesset elections are held on time [November 1996], over 300,000 young people will participate for the first time, according to the new Government Yearbook. Our correspondent Menahem Friedman reports that the population of Israel in early November was 5.6 million, of which over 1.6 million are children under the age of 14.

Some 250,000 Attend Memorial Rally for Rabin

TA1211202295 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 2000 GMT 12 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Over 250,000 people sang together the national anthem, the song Cry for You, My Friend, and the Song of Peace at the closure of the memorial rally for Yitzhaq Rabin in Tel Aviv. It was the largest rally ever held in Israel.

Le'a Rabin was the main speaker at the rally. She said it is now a different world. The silent majority will not remain silent; they will strengthen those who continue Rabin's path to peace. She called on Shim'on Peres to continue taking Rabin's path and promised that everybody will help him.

Le'a Rabin directed remarks at the Shin Bet saying that they cry, but that she lifts their spirits. I swear to them, she said, that the family will never feel resentment toward them. [passage omitted]

Lubrani Views Lebanon's Birri's Remarks on Rabin

NC1111091695 Kafr Killa Voice of the South in Arabic 0800 GMT 11 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Uri Lubrani, head of the Israeli delegation to the peace talks with Lebanon, has stated that when world leaders, including Arab leaders, gathered in Jerusalem to denounce the assassination of Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin and stand firmly in favor of peace, discordant voices were heard in Lebanon, alienating this country from the international community and placing it in the orbit of terrorist states such as Iran, Iraq, and Libya.

Commenting on the Lebanese reaction to Rabin's assassination, Lubrani said courageous voices were then heard from friends and foes alike and from all the Lebanese society's communities. Some directly contacted Lubrani to console him while others expressed their feelings publicly through the Lebanese media. Lubrani affirmed that these courageous voices represent the silent majority of the Lebanese people. He added that he wants these courageous voices to know that he appreciates their courage, especially as he knows that the Lebanese people are not free to express their opinion at present.

Lubrani said he is confident that sincere national personalities, like Dr. Albert Mukhaybir and other leaders, spoke on behalf of the majority of the Lebanese people who kept silence on the assassination and did not adopt a firm and brave stand on the peace process.

Lubrani said silence and lack of a firm stand have raised questions in Israel and the world over about Lebanon's readiness and ability to actively participate in the dramatic developments in the region. He added it is also natural for him to view positively the courageous remarks by Lebanese Parliamentary Speaker Nabih Birri, who is the leader of the Amal Movement which has been operating against Israel in the security zone for several years and which is known for its hostility to Israel. He said speaker Birri proved in his comment on the assassination incident that even among belligerent enemies there is a minimum level of a civilized behavior. This strengthens not only those who are searching for a political solution compatible with the demands of the two sides but also fosters ties of friendship and good neighborliness between Israel and the Shiite community, which comprises the majority of the citizens in the security zone.

Rabbis' Council Supports Alleged Edict Issuers

TA1311183295 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1700 GMT 13 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Council of rabbis in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip met this afternoon in Jerusalem at the end of which it issued a communique stating: That which we most feared has come to pass to our great misfortune. It was reported at the meeting that the rabbis from Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip had met with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin several days prior to his assassination. The meeting took place in a relaxed atmosphere and was marked by mutual respect.

Our correspondent Gil Litman reports that the rabbis' meeting this afternoon was held with the participation of Rabbis Dov Li'or and Nahum Rabinovich, who have been accused of issuing an edict proclaiming Rabin a rodef [one who is liable to be killed for endangering the lives of others].

[Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Hebrew at 1730 GMT adds that the Council of Rabbis declared their "unanimous support" for Rabbis Li'or and Rabinovich, calling the allegations against them "blood libel."]

'Extremist' Groups Said Planning More Violence

TA1411061195 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0500 GMT 14 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] A reserve deputy brigade commander, Rabbi Mikha Regev, several days ago told senior officials that he personally knew of the existence of extremist groups that were planning to continue acts of violence if they were not dealt with in time. Qol Yisra'el's political affairs reporter says Regev spoke of the possibility that the extremists would blow up mosques. According to Regev, he spoke with these people on several occasions and also discovered some army officers and soldiers were part of the group. He said that the members were considered to be stable people and yet were planning the most despicable acts.

Minister Bans Entry of Activist From New York

TA1311165595 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1600 GMT 13 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Interior Minister Ehud Baraq has ordered a Kakh activist from New York banned from entering Israel. Our correspondent Gay Qotev reports that the man has wide-ranging contacts with extreme right-wing elements in Israel and has close ties to Kakh here. Minister Baraq's decision follows consultations with the Shin Bet and with professional and legal elements.

Labor Endorses Peres' Candidacy for Prime Minister

TA1311193895 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1900 GMT 13 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] A short while ago, the Labor Party's Central Committee endorsed Shim'on Peres as its candidate for prime minister and appointed him chairman of the Labor Party. The vote was unanimous. Following the decision, Finance Minister Avraham Shohat, a senior member of the Rabin camp in the Labor Party, made a speech in which he said: Now we all belong to the Peres camp.

Our correspondents Yaron Deqel and Pe'erli Shahar report that the Central Committee convened under heavy security at Ohel Shem Hall in Tel Aviv.

Peres Accepts Endorsement

TA1411094895 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Hebrew 1925 GMT 13 Nov 95

[Acceptance speech by Acting Prime Minister Shim'on Peres following the Labor Party Central Committee's endorsement of his candidacy for prime minister at Ohel Shem Hall in Tel Aviv — live]

[FBIS Translated Text] Ladies and gentlemen: If I were to do what Nisim Zvili promised — that is, that everything will be wrapped up in 23 minutes — I could sum up what I have to say in four words: shalom, haver; toda, haverim [goodbye, friend; thank you, friends]. I lost a friend, and I return to my friends. This is the gist of what I have to say.

Perhaps I may be allowed some personal words on this moving and important evening. It was 18 years ago that I was elected party chairman, and I served in that capacity for 15 years. Those were difficult and complex times. Yitzhaq served as party chairman for three years. I do not know which period had more significance for me. On the face of it, it is easier to be party chairman and harder to see your adversary become party chairman. For me, however, it was a period of virtue and reflection. The moment I lost, I told myself that I must set an example of how to lose without bitterness, complaints, and constant attempts to reverse the situation. These three years proved to me and, I believe, to others as well that when one serves a movement, that movement's victory is one's personal victory. That is the supreme victory.

Prior to this, I spent 18 years working for the defense of Israel. In fact, my life can be divided into two parts: 18 years in the defense sphere and 18 years in the party. I had the great privilege of working under a man I greatly admired both during his lifetime and after his death: David Ben-Gurion. I was privileged to work alongside him and learn from him in my capacity as director general, deputy minister, and, later, defense minister. When I ask myself what needs to be done when given the opportunity, be it in either of these spheres, my answer is: One must enable every individual to do his very best. Just as one excuses one's own weaknesses, so must one excuse the weaknesses of others, and just as one tries to do his best, so must one enable others to do theirs.

One must also not languish in memories; one must always look ahead. Today, too, I will not languish in memories. My eyes, like yours, look to the future. We are extremely fortunate that what started out as a controversial process — the peace process — has become the hope of our younger generation. It is not we who have accomplished this but our young boys and girls. I feel that they, to a large extent, are the ones who are leading us today. I am not ashamed of this. We are living in a period in which students must teach their teachers and not only vice versa. I remember that Efrayim Kishon [Israeli author] once said that Israel is the only country in the world in which the children teach their mothers the mother tongue. There is a lot of truth in this profound remark. Our children teach us our mother tongue. This is a great thing, and I wish all parents children such as ours.

As for the future, we stand at the end of 1995. Only four and a half years — less than five years — remain in this century. I believe that the first circle of the peace process needs these five years to complete the process with Syria, Lebanon, the Palestinians, the region, and within Israel itself. We are not about to wage unnecessary internal battles, but we will wage a relentless struggle against violence. We are not going to engage in a holy war, an Armageddon, or a civil war. This is not what we want. We will argue our position firmly as a united and cultured nation whose future lies ahead of it. I believe that we have the strength and, moreover, that we have a younger generation with the strength to continue to forge ahead in the next five years so that Israel will not be merely a state like any other but, despite all the cynicism and skepticism, a light unto the nations and will set a high standard of virtue for ourselves and endow us with great hope.

I have never mourned the death of a friend so deeply — a friend in the real sense of the word, because we were friends who shared a common path and not simply buddies who drank coffee together. At the same time, I have never felt so optimistic as when I see the great tides of hope, unity, and comradery inside and outside this hall. Shalom, friend; thank you, friends. [applause]

Parties Meet Weizman, Recommend New Government

TA1411113695 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1100 GMT 14 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Likud faction has recommended that President Weizman appoint Shim'on Peres to form the new government. Our correspondent Hayim Hecht reports that so far, 77 Labor and Likud Knesset members [MK's] have recommended that Peres form the new government.

Following the meeting with the president, Likud Chairman Binyamin Netanyahu said that he had recommended that Peres form the next government in order to prevent a situation in which an assassin's bullet brings about a political turnabout. Moshe Qatzav, head of the Likud faction, told our correspondent Yitzhaq Feller that the Likud faction will determine how the Likud will vote in the Knesset, but he pointed out that the Likud may vote nay or abstain when Peres' government is presented to the Knesset.

The Meretz representatives are due to arrive at the president's residence at this time, and the National Religious Party, SHAS [Torah Observing Sephardim], and Tzomet representatives will arrive this afternoon. The representatives of the other parties will see the president tomorrow.

The first delegation to arrive at the president's residence this morning was the Labor delegation, whose members recommended that Shim'on Peres form the new government. President Weizman told the Labor delegation that Judaea and Samaria does not belong entirely to us or to the Palestinians and that an attempt must be made to find a solution that will enjoy broader public support. The conversation also dealt with the duty of the large parties duty to prevent verbal violence and to ease public tempers.

Knesset Member Ramon Announces Return to Labor

TA1411102795 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1000 GMT 14 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Knesset Member Hayim Ramon has announced that he and his colleagues Amir Peretz and Shmu'el Avital are resuming full activity in the Labor Party regardless of the posts they will be allotted, adding that they will fight for their views from within. Ramon said that under the present circumstances, he has no intention of competing for the premiership. Our correspondent Yaron Deqel reports that Ramon firmly noted that his New Life movement will continue its activity in the Histadrut labor federation until 1998. If he leaves his post as Histadrut chairman, he will recommend that Amir Peretz replace him.

Peres Interviewed by French Television

LD1211224495 Paris TF-1 Television Network in French 1750 GMT 12 Nov 95

[Interview with acting Prime Minister Shim'on Peres, in Jerusalem, by Anne Sinclair, in Paris, on 12 November; from the "Sept sur Sept" program — recorded; Peres speaks in English with superimposed French translation, except where otherwise indicated]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Sinclair] Good evening. On an exceptional basis, "Sept sur Sept" has been recorded a little earlier in order to enable us to have a link-up interview with Mr. Shim'on Peres, who has been acting prime minister of Israel since the death of Yitzhaq Rabin.

Good evening, Mr. Peres, and thank you very much for giving "Sept sur Sept" and TF-1 your first interview since the death of...[pauses] since the assassination of Yitzhaq Rabin.

We are recording this interview because you are going to take part this evening in the rally in homage to Yitzhaq Rabin.

With me in Paris is Laurent Fabius, the president of the socialist group [in the National Assembly]. He too will comment on Israel's mourning. I will mainly interview him on French affairs, including the reshuffle of the Juppe government.

A first question, Mr. Peres: In what frame of mind do you find yourself after this week which was probably one of the most difficult in the history of Israel?

[Peres, in French] Three years ago, I found that two people was a lot. Today, I find that only one person is very little. For the time being I remain alone, yet determined. I know we must continue ceaselessly in spite of all the problems and all the worries.

[Sinclair] You will probably be appointed by the president of Israel tomorrow to form a new government. We are going to talk about peace, and we are going to talk about the shock felt by the entire country after Yitzhaq Rabins's assassination. We shall return after a two-minute break. [passage omitted]

[Sinclair] "Sept sur Sept" resumes, with Laurent Fabius in Paris, and Shim'on Peres from Jerusalem. First of all, here is an account by Viviane Jinquefert and Joseph Penisson of a week of mourning in Israel, mourning shared by the entire world, astounded to see the action of deadly fanaticism. [passage omitted]

[Sinclair] Shim'on Peres, we are going to talk about the peace process. I guess you are going to tell us that it is continuing.

We are discovering with alarm that there are in Israel small groups which advocate assassinations, and rabbis who have given their moral support and who have issued what look like fatwas — ayatollah-style. What do you make of this?

[Peres] Well, it worries me very much, but today I say for the first time that I can see nearly all the people of Israel awake, determined to confront this terrible malady, this terrible danger: people who claim to have been appointed by heaven, but who have truly been sent by the devil.

[Sinclair] Do you believe in the plot scenario the minister of police believes in?

[Peres] Well, it's very hard to say. If you are talking about the climate, perhaps. If you are talking in terms of organization, I would say that it is of a much more limited nature. The plot — as you call it — was in the air. It did not become a real organization.

[Sinclair] In any case, for you, these are extremist groups, extremist small groups, and not — as could first be feared — a rift within public opinion, a civil war even, in Israel?

[Peres] I don't think so. I think there is a clear and strong majority against any civil war. No one has been mandated, or would have the opportunity or the audacity, to start a civil war in our country. On the other hand, there are extremely strong united forces against (them?), but a murder, an assassination, is painful enough as it is. I think we should see its real limitations.

[Sinclair] Yitzhaq Rabin thought there was a margin between words that kill and bullets that kill; in other words, between the call to hatred and action. Did you also believe that?

[Peres] Yes, I think so. You know, in a democracy, one governs with words. Words can become a dagger, and words can also heal. It all depends on how we use them. Even the people who have control over their words can really create a situation where irresponsible people go over the top and become murderers, assassins.

[Sinclair] Since we are talking about words, many people in Israel today accuse some leaders of the Likud, the right-wing opposition party, and some of its leaders, including its chief leader, Binyamin Netanyahu. They say that they are morally responsible for this murder because they let people talk, they let people act, they let people insult Rabin, including in the very meetings of this party where some leaders let people shout slogans such as "Rabin Assassin." Do you share this view?

[Peres] I will be very careful not to generalize. You know, when confronted with such a catastrophic situation, I think that it is necessary to be precise, and it is necessary to check oneself, and I would not like to talk against any party. I do not want to turn this into a party issue. Although one should be wary of generalizations, one should be responsible and identify all those, all those leaders — whether secular or religious — all the leaders who have contributed to this terrible situation, but I prefer to deal with this affair on an individual basis, rather than on a partisan basis.

[Sinclair] Mrs. Rabin criticized the silent majority for being too silent. She told all these young people in tears: where were you when people insulted my husband Friday after Friday outside our house? Do you also say that, like Yitzhaq Rabin, you felt really lonely? Ironically, is there not today an extraordinary watershed, a kind of collective culpability throughout Israel?

[Peres] Mrs. Rabin is right. While there was silent support for our policy, it was too silent in many ways. We saw attacks against Rabin, we saw threats to his life, and some among us thought: maybe it is not as serious as it seems, it may not be necessary to alter our timetables. This is how he thought, and so did I, but we also know that it is better not to be afraid of death than to die of fear.

However, general support would probably have contributed to averting this catastrophe.

[Sinclair] You are certainly happy with the following results of a poll published yesterday by an evening daily. To the question: whom would you vote for if elections were held tomorrow? 56 percent of Israelis said Shim'on Peres', and 22 percent said the Likud leader. As for the peace process, 74 percent of Israelis support it, and 12 percent do not know. I think it is the first time such figures have been obtained. Do you think this is simply due to the emotional factor or do you think this is a U-turn and something has really changed?

[Peres] I think it basically shows support for peace. I would like to tell you what really surprised me: the number of young people who took part in the commemoration. Never before had I seen so many young people with such serious expressions, with tears in their eyes and flowers in their hands. They cried because they had lost their beloved leader, they had flowers because he pursued a clear design. I thought about this a lot, I think that the secret of Mr. Rabin's leadership — and of my own as well, to a certain extent — is that with age we have become mature enough to serve the young generations. We no longer fight over power or for ourselves, we are now able to devote all our energy and experience to the young and to the future. And it so happens that only after his death did something emerge which was in fact already deeply rooted: the young have understood that we have made difficult decisions so that their lives tomorrow can be more secure and promising and just, and so that they can take part in the society of young people all over the world thanks to a clear Israeli message — a message of peace, progress, and hope.

[Sinclair] There should be many young people on the Kings of Israel square — to be renamed Yitzhaq Rabin Square — in Tel Aviv this evening. [passage omitted] Police have strongly advised you not to go. Will you go nevertheless?

[Peres] No, they did not force me not to participate, and I decided to go. They said: if you wish so, we shall try our best to protect you. Once again, I do not think that it is possible to rule a country if you are in the grip of fear. One cannot afford the luxury of being afraid.

[Sinclair] You will be appointed prime minister tomorrow and you will form a new cabinet. You have ruled out the possibility of calling snap elections, and elections are scheduled in one year's time. Wouldn't elections have been the best way to legitimize the peace process and to root it even deeper into the people?

[Peres] Yitzhaq Rabin lost his life, he did not lose the elections, he did not lose his mandate. We were elected for a four- year term and it is my duty to continue his political effort. One year is a long time and I have already said that as far as I am concerned I'd rather win peace than elections. The healing process is very fragile and I do not want to take any risks.

[Sinclair] So far, the Rabin-Peres couple had been seen as a couple sharing duties: you inspired, organized, and forwarded the peace negotiations, while Rabin had to reassure and to have this process accepted by the Israelis. You now have a twofold duty. Do you feel that the Israeli people are going to be behind you to assist you in this twofold role now?

[Peres] I don't take it personally. I do believe that the Israeli people supported the policy Yitzhaq and myself implemented. I know that, should anything happen to me — similar to what happened to my friend and brother — others will carry on with the task and will continue our work. From that point of view, I am totally reassured, and I think that there is at least one lesson we can learn from this: when there are two persons, it is totally unnecessary to argue, to confront one another — to share the work, even. We acted like one and the same person, both in spirit and by supporting each other, by trying to analyze the dilemma set to us, honestly and with as much clearsightedness as possible, by trying to draw conclusions, and by trying to master our past in order to invent a new future for our people.

[Sinclair] When one sees the pictures of King Husayn and Mubarak near Rabin's coffin in Jerusalem and the pictures of 'Arafat's visit to Mrs. Rabin, shouldn't one think that the rift highlighted by this tragedy is no longer the divide between Jews and Arabs but between those who — on both sides — support peace and those who are against it? Isn't this a long-term change?

[Peres] Yes, in a very strange way. Sadness proved there was love for peace. Never before did peace express itself with such a sad but also clear voice. The fact that the leaders of Jordan and Egypt and representatives from Oman, Qatar, Mauritania, and Palestinians came to the holy land of Jerusalem to pay tribute to a man who loved peace and to support the continuation of peace itself, was the first real and tangible expression of a real rift in the Middle East: between those who still live in the past and think there is no alternative to war, and those — both Arabs and Jews — who think about the future and think that we are condemned to living in peace and that there is no other choice than peace for ourselves and for our children.

[Sinclair] What will happen to the peace process now? Are you going to respect the schedule you had set with Rabin? Are you going to speed things up or to slow them down? It was announced yesterday that you would meet 'Arafat today in Cairo and then the news was denied. Was it true or not?

[Peres] No, it was not planned at all, because today it is absolutely impossible for me to leave the country. We have meetings scheduled for this afternoon. I do not know where your information comes from. As for your question, we have four schedules and we shall respect them all at the same time. We have the Palestinian schedule — we must continue the withdrawal and we shall fulfill all our obligations and respect all the dates — and we also a have a second schedule, without dates; it is the Syrian calendar and we have the intention of continuing the negotiations with Syria and with Lebanon, indirectly. The third calendar is about opening up the Middle East to a new age, to a new economic system and to a new kind of relations. We shall follow these calendars together and we shall push forward wherever we can.

[Sinclair] Whatever the price for peace? I am refering to the bombs on buses, to the car bombs in Israel, to the civilians who pay the price of peace with their lives —

Rabin is the best example. What you are saying is that, whatever happens, we shall continue. Is that right?

[Peres] Yes, I think that in politics one must make a difference between mobile and immobile thrusts. We must use them all, first those which will make us progress. [passage omitted]

[Sinclair] Thank you, Mr. Peres.

[Peres, in French] Thank you.

Troops Leave Janin; Palestinian Police Take Over

TA1311060495 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0500 GMT 13 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The last Israeli troops have left the West Bank town of Janin and Palestinian police have taken over control of the town. Palestinian residents celebrated the hand over. Mark Weiss reports:

[Weiss] IDF [Israel Defense Forces] troops lowered the Israeli flag from the military headquarters building in Janin at midnight and, a few hours ago, the last Israeli troops left the town. Some 200 Palestinian police rushed into the military building and raised the Palestinian flag. Palestinian security chief Jibril al-Rujub urged the celebrating crowds to be calm so that the Israelis could leave with respect.

A 31-vehicle convoy of Palestinian police and equipment, escorted by the IDF, made its way from Jericho to Janin through the night. A few kilometers before reaching the town, the Israeli vehicles pulled to the side, and allowed the Palestinian convoy to continue on their own. There was wild celebrations by hundreds of Palestinians as the convoy entered Janin. At this hour, another convoy of Palestinian police is due to arrive at the Qabatiyah Junction, where the final hand over will take place with a handshake. The Palestinians traveled from Jericho unarmed, and will receive their weapons in Janin.

One incident took place that was not agreed to between the two sides. One truck of armed Palestinian police made its way from Jericho to Janin and was not in the official convoy. Israeli officers were, reportedly, very angry, but decided not to hold up the redeployment. In all, about a 1,000 Palestinian police will be deployed in Janin and the surrounding area.

The next towns where redeployment will take place will be Tulkarm and Qalqilyah. Under the interim agreement, the last Israeli troops are due to leave Tulkarm by 26 November and Qalqilyah, by 3 December.

IDF Changes Rules of Engagement in Territories

TA1411122495 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 14 Nov 95 p A1

[Report by Aluf Ben, Eytan Rabin, and Ori Nir]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] has issued new rules of engagement for the West Bank and Jordan Valley areas. In view of the redeployment, these rules include the Jordan Valley for the first time. They are stricter than the previous rules and deal separately with three areas in the West Bank: Areas A, B, and C.

The military document dealing with the issue states: "The agreements signed between the State of Israel and the PLO have created a new situation in Judaea, Samaria, and the Jordan Valley." The rules, which have been issued to all IDF units, take effect today. The document makes it clear that the agreement permits the presence of Palestinian policemen in certain parts of the West Bank and allows Palestinian residents and policemen to carry firearms in these areas.

Settler Publication Gives Details on Oslo C Map

TA1411115995 'Ofra NEQUDA in Hebrew Nov 95 p 4

[FBIS Translated Text] IDF [Israel Defense Forces] Central Command officers are preparing Israel's map for the Oslo C stage. In the Taba accord, Israel undertook to implement an additional withdrawal six months after the Palestinian Authority [PA] elections. In order to attain a quick agreement, Peres and 'Arafat decided in Taba that the second-stage withdrawal line will be determined in negotiations following the autonomy elections. The map worked out by the IDF officers is based on the principle that Israel should define the areas it intends to retain for its army bases and settlements during the permanent arrangement, while all the rest belongs to the Palestinians. This is contrary to the previous agreement in which the situation was reversed: The PA areas were defined initially (yellow and brown), and the rest remained under Israeli control (white).

In addition to the colors we encountered on the Oslo B map — white: Israeli-controlled area; yellow: area under Palestinian civilian control and Israeli security control; and brown: area under complete Palestinian control — new colors appear on the Oslo C map: green and blue. The territory Israel must retain for security purposes is marked in green. Such areas, initialed M.L. (military location) [last two words in English], appear on the map that is revealed here for the first time. The green area stretches from north to south along the Green Line, as well as throughout the Jordan Valley area. The issue of sovereignty over this area remains open. The Jewish settlement enclaves within the autonomy are marked in blue. A settlement bloc stretching between Qiryat Arba'-Bet Hagay-Pney Hever-Telem and Adora can be discerned. The Nahal 'Aner presettlement [manned by Nahal brigade soldiers] is marked in green, as a military area. The Jewish settlement in Hebron retains the same status it had on the Oslo B map. Roads open to Arab traffic will pass through these settlement blocs. These roads will be marked in purple. There are yet more colors: In addition to the yellow encountered on the previous map, we now have a new, darker yellow dubbed B.1. Areas marked in this color will be open to the Palestinian "blue" police, as opposed to area A, the brown area, where Palestinian "security" police are operating and are already using armored cars and machine guns, among other things. White areas on this colorful map will be open for negotiations between Israel and the PLO.

A study of the map indicates that those who drafted it want to retain the Jordan Valley as Israel's security border while leaving the issue of sovereignty there open. The eastern Samaria area adjacent to the Green Line is slated to remain under Israeli sovereignty and the uprooting of settlements there is not on the agenda. This map is apparently slated to become the de facto map of the final arrangement, assuming that the discussions on the permanent arrangement will reach a dead end. Everything, however, is conditional on changes Peres and 'Arafat may make to the map.

Ministry Denounces Execution of Nigerian Activists

TA1311165295 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1600 GMT 13 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Foreign Ministry in Jerusalem has denounced the execution of nine human rights activists belonging to the Ogoni tribe in Nigeria last Friday [10 November]. The ministry expressed regret that the Nigerian Government had ignored requests from the entire world to spare the nine. Israel also said the grave action underlines the need to return civilian rule to Nigeria. Our correspondent Gid'on Remez reports that Israel's ambassador in Nigeria has been told to present the announcement to the Nigerian Government.

Indyk, Channel 2 Hold 'Reconciliation' Meeting

TA1311153595 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 13 Nov 95 p 6

[Report by 'Ada Kohen]

[FBIS Translated Text] Last Thursday [9 November], U.S. Ambassador Martin Indyk invited to his office Nahman Shay, director general of Channel 2 Television Network, and Shalom Qital, director general of the station's News Department, for a reconciliation meeting. The talk came after a falling out that began prior to Rosh Hashanah. Israel Television Channel 2 officials said that Ambassador Indyk sabotaged their request — which had already been approved by the White House — for President Clinton to deliver a 10-minute greeting to the people of Israel on the occasion of the new year. The White House agreed to the channel's request, but asked it to wait until after the signing of the Taba agreement between Israel and the Palestinians. After the Taba accord was reached, the station sent a reminder to the White House. The answer was that the request was being considered favorably. Therefore, correspondent Ya'aqov Eylon departed early for Washington prior to the official signing ceremony on the White House lawn. At the last moment, the President greeted the people of Israel via Israel Television Channel 1. Channel 2 learned that this action was due to Ambassador Indyk's intervention on behalf of Channel 1, and decided to cut off ties with the U.S. Embassy except for covering ordinary news items.

At Thursday's meeting, Ambassador Indyk did not deny the facts. It appears that he settled an account with Channel 2, which had accused him of meeting with Knesset Member Arye Der'i and intervening in Israel's domestic affairs. Indyk apologized and promised that in the future he would cooperate with Channel 2.

Parliament Opposition Reacts to House Statement

JN1311142595 Irbid AL-HIWAR in Arabic 13 Nov 95 p 6

["Exclusive" report]

[FBIS Translated Text] The House of Representatives' reaction to his majesty's speech was so quick that observers cast doubt on whether the House statement represented the viewpoint of all parliamentary blocs in the House.

The statement, which was read by House Speaker Sa'd Hayil al-Surur on Television Friday night, supported everything the king said in his speech. On behalf of his colleagues, al-Surur expressed the House's willingness to reconsider all legislation proposed by the Palace, especially those dealing with the media, the Press and Publications law, and the trade unions law.

In light of the swift House response as expressed in the statement read by Speaker al-Surur, AL-HIWAR sought the opinion of the opposition parliamentary blocs.

Reached by telephone Friday night, Muslim Brotherhood deputy Shaykh 'Abd-al-Mun'im Abu-Zant said: I swear by Almighty God that I had no knowledge of such a statement by the House of Representatives. He added: The speed with which this statement was prepared is one of the mysteries of Jordanian democracy because a statement in the name of the deputies was issued without their knowledge.

AL-HIWAR also telephoned leftist deputy Mustafa Shunaykat to ask about the statement. He, too, was surprised that there was a statement. He declined to give his opinion before hearing the statement. However, he promised to comment on it as soon as he heard it in the 2300 Amman television newscast on Friday.

Deputy Bassam Haddadin also expressed surprise at the statement and said he would comment on it as soon as the text was available to him.

AL-HIWAR tried to get the opinion of other deputies. It contacted Deputy Dr. 'Abdallah al-Nusur, who had a different opinion on the statement. He said that the statement represented the entire political spectrum in the House of Representatives and that it was not drafted behind the deputies' backs. Al-Nusur added that after the House speaker heard his majesty the king's speech—which urged the silent majority to announce their stand and which called on the House of Representatives to say its words—he decided to call on the permanent office, heads of the permanent committees, and heads of the parliamentary blocs to meet. Attending the meeting were deputy Hashim al-Dabbas, head of the financial committee; deputy Khalil Haddadin; deputy Muhammad al-Hunayti; deputy Dr. Muhammad 'Uwaydah, representative of the Islamic Action Front; and Engineer 'Abd-al-Hadi al-Majali. The statement was drafted during the meeting and later read by House Speaker al-Surur. Al-Nusur stressed the importance of the House's statement and said it represented the national Jordanian constants which his majesty the king presented in his recent speech.

'Crisis' Caused by Speaker's Statement

JN1311145295 Amman AL-MAJD in Arabic 13 Nov 95 p 1

[FBIS Translated Text] A sharp parliamentary crisis erupted last Friday, 10 November, on the background of the political statement, which was issued by House of Representatives Speaker Sa'd Hayil al-Surur in the name of the House and in which he expressed the House's readiness to amend the laws of publications and trade unions, as well as other laws, in accordance with what came in the royal speech on 9 November.

The parliamentary crisis, which developed over the past two days, erupted because the number of the deputies who met in the morning and evening to issue that important statement is no more than one quarter of the House members. This constitutes a clear constitutional and legal violation because the minority in the Parliament have no right to issue an important statement in the name of the majority and without their knowledge or presence.

AL-MAJD learned that several meetings were held on Saturday and Sunday among the deputies who were not called for the limited parliamentary meeting, which issued the statement. These deputies were not asked about their opinions regarding the issuance of the statement or regarding its significance and content.

The most important meeting was held yesterday by the Islamic movement deputies, knowing that one of those deputies, Dr. Muhammad 'Uwaydah, attended the issuance of the statement. Despite this, the Islamic movement deputies oppose the statement — in form and content — and do not consider Dr. 'Uwaydah their representative in the meeting.

House Speaker Sa'd Hayil al-Surur reaffirmed that the statement is constitutional. In a statement to AL-MAJD, al-Surur said that the statement was issued with the consent of the representatives of all parliamentary blocs and independent deputies and in the presence of the chairmen of the House committees. He noted that the statement reiterated laws which were endorsed by the Parliament in the first place. Al-Surur added that the House can issue a statement while it is in session or recess.

Deputy Hamzah Mansur, spokesman of the Islamic bloc deputies, said that what is issued in the name of the House of Representatives must be discussed by all members of the House and must be approved by the majority. He added that issuing a statement by the House speaker together with 10 or 15 members in the name of the House is considered a serious violation and a precedent which cannot be ignored. Mansur added: The House is not facing an urgent issue which should be addressed immediately. The House speaker could have called on us to hold a meeting within two or three days to discuss the matter and to adopt the appropriate position.

In a statement to AL-MAJD, Deputy Bassam al-'Umush said: The House statement does not represent my stand and I do not agree with most of what came in it. He added: The House speaker could have issued the statement in his own name. If this were the case, we would not object. However, we do not accept the House speaker issuing a statement in our name.

Deputy Dr. Hammam Sa'id said: I know nothing about this meeting which shows the House of Representatives helpless. It seems as if the smallest local council has a greater role than our House. Deputy Sa'id ridiculed this democratic form which they seek to diminish. He said: The House speaker's step is unconstitutional and illogical, because the House, in such cases, should meet so that each deputy can express his opinion. In such issues, nobody represents anybody.

Deputy Shaykh 'Abd-al-Mun'im Abu-Zant considered the House statement illegitimate and unconstitutional, adding that he knew about this statement from the media and from the people. Abu-Zant added: The members of the House of Representatives, who were elected by the poor people, know only a little bit. This explains one of the secrets of the fake democracy.

Meanwhile, Deputy Tahir al-Masri, who was not called for the meeting, refused to respond to a request by AL-MAJD to comment on the statement. Deputy Khalil Haddadin considered the statement a balanced one which explained some of what came in his majesty the king's speech. Deputy Haddadin stressed the importance of issuing such a statement by the House of Representatives.

Deputy Mustafa Shunaykat did not hide that he opposed some of what was in the House statement, but he declined to say what that was. He added: I agree with the call for entrenching democracy. He noted that the government plays a great role in breaking the laws.

Deputy Tujan Faysal sent a memorandum to the speaker of the House of Representatives protesting his step. [AL-MAJD on page 11 publishes the text of Deputy Faysal's memo to the House speaker in which she says that she was surprised to hear about the statement which was issued without the knowledge of a number of deputies and a clarification by Deputy Bassam al-'Umush in which he explains why the statement does not represent his stand]

Paper Praises King's Speech, Calls For Action

JN1311152595 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 13 Nov 95 pp 1, 28

[Editorial: "King Husayn Is the Conscience of His People"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The manifestations of deep satisfaction with and positive optimistic reaction to His Majesty King Husayn's historic address to the officers and leaders, and through them to the one big family, are conclusive evidence of the inspired Hashemite leader's ability to understand his peoples' pains and fears and to conclude facts and present them to his people in broad daylight.

Who, other than King Husayn, can take the lead and defy dangers, laying his finger on the wound, diagnosing the disease, drawing a line between good and evil, and pointing to the right path? This is what his majesty did when he called on the silent majority to speak up. He sounded the alarm and warned against attacking democracy in the name of democracy.

Perhaps King Husayn can now see for himself the depth of the popular support he enjoys as demonstrated in the cities as well as rural and desert areas in response to his angry reproach and warning against the exacerbation of regional grudges and the spread of the phenomena of arbitrary classification. Quick measures should be taken to eliminate sedition and to enhance national unity.

This is not the first time King Husayn has called for a reassessment of the situation and a rectification of recent mistakes. However, this last call was much stronger and had a greater impact on both minds and hearts. People have long yearned for such a zealous stand that is concerned with the present and future of the homeland—a stand that makes us more optimistic than ever before about the anticipated results of the king's warning speech.

Undoubtedly, all the love, loyalty, and allegiance the Jordanians expressed to King Husayn open the door for a brave, overall review of the situation and for firm measures to uproot all the harmful weeds which grew on the edges of our democratic march, foil all attempts to tamper with the fabric of our national unity, and return all rats to their holes once and for all.

Political Parties Sign Merger Agreement

JN1111130395 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 11 Nov 95 p 3

[Report by Musa al-Hawamidah]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] For the second time since the licensing of Jordan's political parties, a merger was announced yesterday between the Popular Unity Party—the Unionists—[PUP] and the Jordanian National Party [Hizb al- Ummah al-Urduni] which is currently under establishment.

The merger agreement was signed by Talal al-Ramahi and Mustafa al-'Isawi before a number of guests and secretaries general of Jordanian parties.

The two parties were merged under the name of the Popular Unity Party—the Unionists. The former PUP leadership was dissolved and a new leadership was formed with al-'Isawi as secretary general. The signing ceremony was attended by the Palestinian Unionists Grouping. [passage omitted]

'New' Saudi Ambassador Arrives, Makes Statement

JN1111192095 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 11 Nov 95

[Announcer-read report]

[FBIS Translated Text] Shaykh 'Abdallah al-Sudayri, ambassador of the custodian of the two holy mosques to the Royal Hashemite Court, arrived in Amman this evening to assume his duties. Shaykh al- Sudayri expressed hope he can cooperate with officials from the two fraternal countries to make more positive gains and to promote the brotherly relations between the two countries in all areas for the benefit of the two fraternal peoples.

He pointed out that contacts are under way between officials from the Jordanian and Saudi foreign ministries to arrange for a visit to Jordan by His Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, Saudi minister of foreign affairs.

The new Saudi ambassador was received by several foreign ministry officials, the Saudi charge d'affaires, and Saudi embassy staff.

President, Prime Minister Denounce Saudi Blast

NC1411073295 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0530 GMT 14 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] President Ilyas al-Hirawi has denounced yesterday's explosion in Riyadh, which killed six people, including five Americans, and injured 60 others, including 35 Americans.

President al-Hirawi called on Saudi Ambassador Ahmad Muhammad al-Kuhaymi last night. He asked about the Riyadh incident and gave the ambassador a message for the custodian of the two holy mosques, King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, denouncing the terrorist incident.

Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri contacted the Saudi king, denouncing the incident and offering his condolences. He cabled the king saying: I heard about the evil explosion at a National Guard training center. It was carried out by evil people who are engaged in crime and terrorism. On behalf of the Lebanese people, Government, and myself, I extend my heartfelt condolences, asking Almighty God that the injured recover. I pray God to keep you safe from harm and take care of the Kingdom so that it remains an oasis of security and stability, the protector of the Muslims' sanctities worldwide, and the defender of Arab and Muslim rights as they work to achieve their aspirations.

Prime Minister al-Hariri also sent cables along the same lines to Crown Prince 'Abdallah Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz and Prince Sultan Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, second deputy prime minister and minister of defense and aviation.

Prime Minister al-Hariri contacted Saudi Ambassador Shaykh Ahmad al-Kuhaymi to inquire about the incident.

Israeli Raids Said To Target Social, Medical Centers

NC1311171295 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1630 GMT 13 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Israeli enemy aircraft raided the al-Na'imah hills this afternoon, dropping some 20 heavy-caliber shells, including timed shells, on the area. The raids targeted centers belonging to the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine — General Command. The front announced that there were 10 raids and that they targeted some of its social and health centers. It added that one of the raids targeted the area surrounding a school operated by the United Nations Relief and Works Agency.

The enemy warplanes conducted mock raids over al-Nabatiyah and Iqlim al-Tuffah at noon today and drew antiaircraft fire from the Lebanese Army.

The Israeli enemy attacks were not limited to air raids; the occupation artillery bombarded the townships of Frun and al-Ghanduriyah and the Litani river basin, Wadi al-Hujayr, Zawtar, Qa'qa'iyat al-Jisr, and Qabrikha.

The Resistance responded with an operation against the agent [South Lebanese Army] positions in Sujud and Bi'r Kallab. The agents' radio [Kafr Killa Voice of the South] admitted the attack, claiming that it sustained no casualties.

Moreover, two groups of the Amal Movement targeted an agent patrol on the Dayr Siryan-al-Qusayr road, inflicting casualties on its members.

Further on Conflict

NC1411085195 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0530 GMT 14 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] NATIONAL NEWS AGENCY [NNA] correspondents in the south report this morning that several areas came under sporadic [Israeli] attacks overnight. The attacks continued until morning. Cautious calm now prevails in the frontline areas while sporadic shells continue to fall amid bursts of machine-gun fire.

UN Interim Force in Lebanon [UNIFIL] sources said many shells landed near the Finnish contingent's post without causing casualties among the Finnish soldiers.

The Amal Movement announced that one of its groups ambushed an occupation forces patrol on the Dayr Siryan-al-Qusayr Road, destroying a tank and killing or wounding its crew members.

At the same time another group attacked the al-Qusayr post with machine guns and rockets.

The Islamic Resistance announced that its men attacked the Agent Antoine Lahd militia [South Lebanese Army] posts in Sujud and Bi'r Kallab with machine guns and rockets. The militia radio acknowledged the attacks on the two posts and claimed that no casualties occurred among militia members.

We were told by the NNA correspondent in Tyre a short time ago that the Israeli artillery bombardment continued all night. It covered the towns of Tulin, al-Sultaniyah, Haddathah, Haris, and Tibnin. At dawn today the bombardment reached Majdal Zun, al-Mansuri, Wadi Zibqin, and Khirbat Silm, where some houses were damaged.

UNIFIL closed the crossings last night and sounded sirens warning the people of the serious situation.

Two attacks by the Amal Movement on an Israeli patrol on the Bayt Yahun Road and on the al-Qusayr post were reported.

[In a related report Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic at 0630 GMT on 14 November adds the following in a voice report from correspondent Samir 'Alamah on the situation in the south: "Zionist attacks on the liberated areas did not stop last night. At about 2100 yesterday Wadi Haris came under 155-mm artillery fire from the al-Duhayrah post. An hour later the outskirts of Bra'shit and Wadi (placename indistinct) came under similar shelling originating from Mays al-Jabal.

["At around 2300 the occupation artillery emplacement in al-Zaffatah bombarded the al-Litani River basin with 155-mm shells, while the Bra'shit post fired several 81-mm mortar rounds at the outskirts of Bra'shit. At the same time (Jabal al-Za'tar) was subjected to 122-mm and 155-mm artillery fire from the occupation post in Mays al-Jabal. Shortly after midnight Zionist 155-mm artillery shelling from Mays al-Jabal reached the suburbs of Jumayjimah, Khirbat Silm, and al-Sultaniyah.

["Reconnaissance aircraft did not leave the area all night, concentrating on al-Nabatiyah and Tyre. Warplanes also flew over al-Nabatiyah and Iqlim al-Tuffah while gunboats cruised the coast off (Wadi al-Zayni).

["The Islamic Resistance mujahidin yesterday carried out two attacks on the occupation forces and Lahdist militia posts in Sujud and Bi'r Kallab. The Islamic Resistance sources said the Martyr Hasan al-Akhras group attacked the Sujud post, using machine guns and rockets. Simultaneously, the Martyr Husayn Qubaysi unit attacked the occupation forces position in Bi'r Kallab. Islamic Resistance sources said the two attacks coincided with the anniversary of the birth of Lady al-Zahra'."]

Council Chairman: Nation Still in Intensive Care

MM1411093395 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 11 Nov 95 p 3

[Interview with Shaykh Muhammad Shams-al-Din, chairman of the Higher Islamic Shiite Council, by 'Ali al-Ruzz in London on 10 November]

[FBIS Translated Text] [al-Ruzz] Whenever any issues pertaining to matters of the Constitution or jurisdiction are raised, all sources rush to talk about their share in these matters and claim that some sort of violations of the [reconciliation] formula were involved. Does this mean that the country is not yet out of intensive care and that the reconciliation agreement has not produced any nonsectarian formula?

[Shams-al-Din] What it actually means is that confidence in the existing formula is not yet complete and that the force which possesses the power to go beyond the formula is still there. This is only natural in formulas of this type, I mean the sectarian formula, which was the basis on which the new government was formed and which was the by-product of internal and external convictions. Those who came out the winners from this formula feel that their gains are not yet guaranteed by any entrenched conviction in what they consider to be the best, while those who came out the losers feel that they should try to regain what they lost, particularly as whenever any crisis occurs they hear statements by some people raising their hopes that it would be possible to re-form the government in accordance with another formula.

We must view this [going beyond the formula] as a good thing and I am not surprised to see it happen every now and then. This is because the present formula was actually the result of non-entrenched internal and external convictions. In this regard, it might be useful to cite as an example the statement made by His Beatitude Patriarch Nasrallah Sufayr a few days ago about his having received certain promises in respect of some impending constitutional amendments. Naturally, his beatitude the patriarch makes statements wherever he likes and according to his own convictions. But I would like to ask: Who made such promises to him? On what basis? By what criterion? Who was consulted? Who has the power to implement these promises? Should these promises be honored, what would the position of the disagreeing quarters be? In short, what we need are deeds, stances, and courses of action that would entrench conviction in what has already been done and create trust among the various parties to the accord so that these parties do not split between those who are afraid to lose what they have achieved and those who want to change this state of affairs.

[Al-Ruzz] How can confidence be bolstered in such a case?

[Shams-al-Din] As far as we are concerned, we feel that all sides must adhere to the one-state plan, that the one state should be one of institutions, and that the question of rule in Lebanon should no longer be governed by personalities and their moods and interests. I believe, once these convictions are entrenched and once the state plan has developed into one of institutions unaffected by personalities, however skilled or honest they may be, then confidence will strengthen.

[Al-Ruzz] So even in the matter of crossing the bridge to the state of institutions, Lebanon has not managed to come out of intensive care?

[Shams-al-Din] No, not yet. I am also sorry to say that we have been rather overoptimistic in our trust in the strength of the internal political situation, though we have been right in our trust in the strength of the security situation and our emergence from the state of war.

Perhaps we have been excessive or unrealistic in feeling confident that a strong political situation would emerge, saving public life from crises. Yet I am not afraid, even about the level of the state's political establishment. The crises we have been through have always ended in relatively quick solutions. Had we not had the factional accord, we would have faced tougher crises. I believe that our present state of affairs is not satisfactory but still it does not come as a surprise.

[Al-Ruzz] This means that there is a continuing need for Syrian support, in both the political and security fields, doesn't it?

[Shams-al-Din] We do not ignore this fact.

[Al-Ruzz] Does this not indicate failure on the part of the decisionmakers?

[Shams-al-Din] That is not true. In the field of security, support would be confined to the sphere of technology and capability. As to the field of politics, I cannot accept seeing the Lebanese made subject to such an accusation, namely, of failure. For we are passing through a critical and exceptional stage. Had the political differences taken place under a natural regional state of affairs, we would not be in need of any help from either a friend or a brother.

Today we are facing a developing Israeli situation as well as a developing international situation. There are negotiations and there are pressures, and there are cases of lack of confidence internally, of which we have spoken earlier. Syria is a partner in the general aspects of Lebanon's regional position and it is only natural for Lebanon to seek Syria's adjudication and for Syria to perform this task.

But — and the Lebanese are to blame for this — in most cases, these adjudications are unnecessary and are in fact no more than attempts to seek support [for one faction] and not essentially adjudication, that is an attempt by one side to secure Syria's support and might against another side.

But I know that the brothers in Syria are not willing to act other than as adjudicators, particularly in regard to the ruling clique in Lebanon irrespective of the clique's affiliations and currents. I do not at all accept the claim that Lebanon and the Lebanese were unable to manage their political affairs or their state's policy. The responsibility in this regard falls on some of the Lebanese who try to go beyond adjudication to secure support.

[Al-Ruzz] But seeking adjudication, support, power...do these not all lead in one way or another to the weakening of independent decisionmaking?

[Shams-al-Din] There are some people in Lebanon who have the mentality or the attitude of understanding independence and the concept of independence as meaning that there should be no need, or no opportunity should be given, for intervention from across the ocean. I am talking in this regard about Syria and the Arabs. But such an understanding is unrealistic in the present historical era through which our region and the world are passing. Many countries have been holding contacts with each other to repair any political defects between them.

A great deal of this sort of contacts has been taking place in Europe. But in Lebanon there is a strong sensitivity toward anything that Syria tries to do, while there is no sensitivity at all toward anything that other countries, other than Syria, do. Why is that? Is it because Syria has a specific attitude toward the negotiations? Or is it because it has objections?

In essence, we have always said that those who refrain from shouldering responsibility in any state, parliamentary, governmental, or administrative position are wrong. The policy of boycott, abstention, and withdrawal has demonstrably failed and has harmed the state plan as a whole, not only the Muslims or those who are called "Syria's henchmen." I wish to get involved in the state plan from a position of opposition be it from within or outside the plan. Then people will realize that there is no place for accusing the Lebanese of failure and we will be more capable of tackling our problems by ourselves.

[Al-Ruzz] How does the absence of boycott lead to the absence of adjudication?

[Shams-al-Din] Boycott has led to a certain lack of balance. Once it ends, the defect will weaken and our ability to tackle matters will become stronger.

[Al-Ruzz] You have stated that "a small number of powers" were devised for the Shiite institutions, which is unsatisfactory to the Shiites. But do the Shiites approve of the method of administrative and ministerial appointments within their community as well as of the other general appointments that are based on who is stronger rather than on who is more suitable?

[Shams-al-Din] I reaffirm here what I said earlier about this matter. I cannot approve of appointments that disregard the public arena and the various capabilities, be they Shiite or non-Shiite. Furthermore, the attempts by political leaderships to give themselves fixed positions, not only in the present era but also in the past administration, caused a great deal of backwardness in our administrative structure, as Maronites, Sunnis, and Shiites alike. The Lebanese have grown used to expecting the men of the [old] regime to plant their henchmen in the body of the state. This is something which we cannot approve and which we believe to be one of the causes of the weakness of the state plan and the manifestations of the backwardness of democracy in Lebanon.

We have always supported and continue to support the policy of separating positions that are liable to be subject to the influence of other positions — such as separating membership of parliament from membership of the cabinet, and separating the administration from politics. I have always called for freeing the administration and its people from politicians, and freeing the citizens from becoming captives to politics. The administration has been to a large extent captive to politicians, and the only means open to the citizens to get to the administration was to appease the politicians and win their approval. We must end this state of affairs.

I have spoken in the past about the need to liberate the administration and break its link with politicians. I do not mean to detract from anyone, but I have noticed that the majority of honorable members of parliament pursue the cases of citizens who come to seek their help. Why cannot the citizen go directly to the administration? The duty of members of parliament is a legislative one and not chasing up the affairs of Lebanese citizens. Undoubtedly, members of parliament are anxious to win the approval of the people, but we want them also to be anxious to win the approval of God Almighty as well. Instead of having their administrative will liberated, the citizens find themselves forced to make their will captive to the frameworks that they need. The extent of administrative backwardness in Lebanon is among the highest in the world.

[Al-Ruzz] Now that President Ilyas al-Hirawi's term of office has been extended because of "exceptional circumstances," are similar extensions likely to follow in respect of other institutions such as parliament because of the aforementioned circumstances?

[Shams-al-Din] This matter has in fact been the subject of discussion at certain past moments, and was felt to possess a high degree of likelihood. But I warned at the time against even the mere contemplation of such a thing, and I did so in a very strong manner that would convince some circles not to attempt it. We affirm today that no such extension would ever be possible for parliament and that elections should be held under better conditions than those that prevailed when the present parliament was elected and in accordance with an electoral system that makes the Lebanese need each other and does not make one group feel it can do without another group. We want a system that increases mutual reliance, that encourages the desire for coexistence, that supports the one-state plan, that believes in the unified interests of all Lebanese and that opposes sectarian, regional, and the regime's interests.

The extension of parliament's term would be a grave mistake.

As to President al-Hirawi, we felt and continue to feel that there were exceptional conditions which are not connected to the person of the president that necessitate the extension of his term of office. I told him: You are one of the best people to have occupied the post of president of the republic. But we do not offer a conciliation prize to whoever performs well. Books might be written about you and statutes erected for you. But we want you because the country needs you. This need is there despite the fact that some people have thought differently. But all views converged in the end in this way of thinking, in the interest of the country. I hope all will cooperate in the present stage.

Exceptional circumstances do not exist in respect of parliament, but rather the circumstances call for the creation of a parliament that is more suited to the variables of the coming era and more capable of shouldering its responsibilities. I cannot predict the unknown but I can say that unforeseen circumstances might arise during the next 10 months that would prevent such a thing [the creation of a more suitable parliament], though I cannot foresee the development of any such force majeur.

[Al-Ruzz] What are your views in regard to the participation of Major General Michel 'Awn and his supporters in the forthcoming elections?

[Shams-al-Din] I support the participation of all Lebanese in the elections including Michel 'Awn and his supporters. I have earlier made some observations concerning those who boycotted the past elections. For this reason, we urge all Lebanese to participate so that we may form a new house of representatives that represents all Lebanese.

[Al-Ruzz] Some Lebanese are afraid that the absence of the Lebanese from the next stage of negotiations [with Israel] might result in solutions that do not serve their interests. What do you say to that?

[Shams-al-Din] I am personally not afraid. It was this sort of imaginary threat that made some Arab countries so rash [in seeking agreement with Israel]. I believe that any solutions that would be reached would have to be with the approval of the Lebanese. If some people fear that Syria might unilaterally reach a solution that would serve its own interests at the expense of Lebanon's interests, then I can say that this will not happen. Without mere courtesy to Syria, I can say that Syria's vision today and that of President Hafiz al-Asad are based on Lebanon's interests. Lebanon's interest lies in the truthful implementation of UN Resolution 425 and the rejection of the Israeli conditions for normalization. These matters cannot be squandered. When the Syrian and Lebanese tracks become active, a solution will be reached. But for Lebanon to negotiate on its own out of concern for its own interests, as some are advocating, I believe that Lebanon on its own cannot handle the equation. The equations of power differ. The equation in Lebanon is flimsy and could be exploited by the Israelis to weaken the position of the Lebanese negotiators. This identity of stances with Syria provides Lebanon with an immunity which it would not have if it were to act alone. The solution will not be reached at our expense.

'Positive Signals' Said Sent After Rabin's Death

JN1011191795 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 0655 GMT 10 Nov 95

[Report by Thana' al-Imam in Damascus; from the weekly "The Event" program]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Syrian stand on Rabin's death is summed up by the expression, No gloating over death. However, peace might receive another chance after it was about to totter in recent months.

Damascus has sent positive signals to Tel Aviv and its new prime minister. The Syrian papers have avoided mentioning his name, both positively or negatively, despite the fact that before Rabin's death these papers accused him of sharing a role with Prime Minister Rabin or by saying that he and Rabin are two sides of the same coin as far as the peace process in concerned.

However, since Rabin's assassination, official Syrian media have not mentioned Peres by name. Damascus is waiting to see his new peaceful inclinations in the post-Rabin phase, and what he is prepared to give Syria in exchange for peace, which Syria said it would exchange for full return of territory.

The calm that prevailed in al-Yarmuk Camp in a southern Damascus suburb, which is one of the biggest refugee camps in Syria where 100,000 people live, could be yet another positive signal from Damascus to Tel Aviv. Political observers did not see any manifestations of celebrations, large or small, in the camp over Rabin's assassination, in contrast to Beirut and some other Lebanese towns.

Western diplomatic circles in the Syrian capital have not tried to hide their optimism that a breakthrough on the Syrian-Israeli track is possible soon. These circles believe that this will materialize because the architect of the peace process, Peres, has assumed the Israeli prime minister's post, given his previous statements on lack of ambitions in southern Lebanon and on his readiness to withdraw from the Golan. Moreover, he is from the Labor Party's doves, whereas Rabin was one of the hawks.

These circles also mention Syria's reiteration of its desire to effect a breakthrough, something British Foreign Secretary Rifkind quoted al-Asad as saying.

Western diplomats do not expect that the pressure of time under which the Americans and the Israelis are operating as the elections in both countries draw closer will have negative effects on the Syrian-Israeli track. On the contrary, this might accelerate movement on this track, especially if Tel Aviv signals to Damascus that it wants peace in accordance with international principles and terms on which the Madrid peace process was launched.

Commentaries View Peace Process, Government Stance

Radio Reiterates Desire for Peace

JN1011150895 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1250 GMT 10 Nov 95

[Station commentary]

[FBIS Translated Text] Following talks with President Hafiz al-Asad, the British secretary of state for foreign affairs expressed his country's conviction that Syria wants to achieve peace and is serious about achieving this objective. He said there is an historic opportunity to achieve substantial progress on the Syrian track. Many international leaders and politicians who have visited Damascus and met with President Hafiz al-Asad share these convictions expressed by the British secretary of state for foreign affairs because Syria uses frank and open language. It does not whisper secretly because it has nothing to conceal. From this premise, Syria rejects any form of secret talks because it believes in peace and is concerned about having the leadership and the people adopt a joint stand toward the peace process and its dimensions and requirements. During the past four years since the Madrid conference, Syria demonstrated its faith in and seriousness about peace, and helped the U.S. Administration calm the situation and find the appropriate grounds to resume the talks, despite Israel's continued aggressions against towns and villages in southern Lebanon. It is now expressing its desire to make more efforts to achieve tangible and quick progress following the assassination of the Israeli prime minister. Syria believes that a true, just, and comprehensive peace is the only way to confront extremism and extremists and to foil their plans to undermine the peace process and to drag the region to new devastating wars.

Achieving peace is not impossible if the two sides have good intentions and are resolute. Syria also has good intentions and is resolute, and is only waiting for a reciprocal Israeli stand that is up to the level of the sanctity and importance of peace, the essence of the UN Security Council resolutions, and the base of the U.S. initiative: namely, the land-for-peace formula. Just as Israel seeks a clear peace, Syria also wants to restore its territories. This is first its right, and second the right of the international community. The Golan has been Syrian territory since the dawn of history. It was occupied by force in 1967, and its citizens were forced to leave their homes. One of the basic pillars of peace is that Syria's land is restored, and the displaced are returned to their homes and can lead natural lives away from any threat. Regarding the security concerns the Israelis have expressed, Syria expressed its readiness to discuss even and equitable [muta'adilah wa mutakifi'ah] security arrangements to dissipate all sides' fears. What excuse does Israel have then regarding its rejection of a full withdrawal from the Golan?

Israel's commitment to a full withdrawal to the 4 June 1967 borders will pave the way for a true, entrenched, and lasting peace. This will be reciprocated with a quick Syrian response. This will also lead to a similar true and entrenched peace with Lebanon, peace which brings security and tranquility to each of Israel, Lebanon, and Syria. The Israelis know full well that peace cannot last in the region without Syria. Peace is in all sides' interests. It also has additional benefits for Israel where the racist and extremist right-wing movements, which call for murder, wars, and bloodshed, thrived. Unless these extremist movements are confronted by true and tangible peace achievements, they will eventually abort the peace process, give predominance to crazy acts of violence and war, and push the entire region toward the unknown.

Determination To Pursue Peace Stressed

JN1311170395 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0545 GMT 13 Nov 95

[From the press review]

[FBIS Translated Text] The newspaper AL-BA'TH says: Since the inception of the blessed Corrective Movement, Syria's clout has grown, and so has its influence on pan-Arab developments, thanks to the wise pan-Arab policy pursued by the idolized leader Hafiz al-Asad, who has made enormous efforts to promote inter-Arab ties in the nation's interest. This policy helped produce the victories achieved in the October 1973 liberation war, which restored the nation's self-confidence. Leader al-Asad has constantly believed that pan-Arab considerations must be at the heart of all approaches and moves.

The paper adds: This wise and courageous policy was translated into acts and deeds on the Lebanese scene. Since 1975, when the crisis erupted, the beloved leader has been well aware of the magnitude of the plot targeting Lebanon. That is why he made immense efforts to solve the crisis, which was meant to serve as a prelude to tearing the Arab nation apart.

With regard to Syria's position on the regional peace process, AL-BA'TH says: Since its inception, the Corrective Movement has stated that it is for just and comprehensive peace, and that such peace must guarantee complete and total Israeli withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories.

AL-BA'TH concludes by saying: Syria will continue with its peace efforts, but on the basis of the relevant international legitimacy resolutions, which ensure the restoration of rights to their lawful owners. It will continue to respond favorably to all the efforts aimed at achieving true peace in our region. Such peace must be grounded in withdrawal from our occupied territories to the 4 June 1967 borders, and also from southern Lebanon.

Government Declines To Receive Iraqi Official

TA1211100695 Gaza AL-HAYAH AL-JADIDAH in Arabic 8 Nov 95 p 1

[FBIS Translated Text] Amman — AL-HAYAH AL-JADIDAH has learned that the Syrian charge d'affaires in Amman informed the Iraqi Embassy that his government could not receive a high-ranking Iraqi official who went to Amman en route to Damascus on an official mission the nature of which was not divulged. Diplomatic sources said that the Syrian Embassy sent a note to the Iraqi Embassy that said that there was no need for such a visit at present. Baghdad had dispatched Sa'd 'Abd-al-Majid al-Faysal, Iraqi deputy foreign minister, at the head of a senior delegation to Damascus to discuss the possibility of the renewal of diplomatic relations between Iraq and Syria. Damascus, however, refused to receive this delegation. Jordanian partisan sources close to the ruling parties in Syria and Iraq said that the estrangement between the two countries will likely continue in the future, because neither of them has adopted the appropriate measures to encourage reconciliation.

'Sources' Deny Husayn Kamil's Damascus Visit

JN1411103095 Amman AL-HADATH in Arabic 15 Nov 95 p 1

[FBIS Translated Text] Informed Syrian sources deny recent reports that Lieutenant General Husayn Kamil made a visit to Damascus. Sources told AL-HADATH that these reports are unfounded and are intended to distort Syria's position on the Iraq question.

Sources at the Syrian Foreign Ministry also say that Damascus removed the former Syrian charge d'affaires from Amman after he received a phone call from Husayn Kamil asking him to arrange a visit to Damascus.

Paper Reports on al-Asad-Rifkind Talks

JN1211151195 Damascus SANA in Arabic 0845 GMT 12 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Damascus, 12 Nov (SANA)—The newspaper AL-THAWRAH said that the meetings, which Malcolm Rifkind, British secretary of state for foreign and commonwealth affairs, and Western and international political figures held with President Hafiz al-Asad gave the impression that Syria was honest in its peace trends and was ready for peace and its requirements.

Commenting today on Rifkind's meeting with al-Asad, the newspaper says that it indicates a new reality, which was already discovered by everybody who visited Syria and listened to officials, particularly President Hafiz al-Asad. Al-Asad, the paper adds, has seized every opportunity to stress that Syria was serious about the peace process and that the United States was aware of Syria's readiness to achieve just and comprehensive peace that can restore land and rights to their owners.

The newspaper also asserts that the stalemate in the peace process is due to Israel's intransigence, its failure to meet peace requirements, and its disregard of the UN Security Council's resolutions. It also says that the only way to advance the peace process is to get Israel to abandon its negative positions, to take a positive stand on the bases of the peace process, and to abide by the principle of total withdrawal for total peace.

Concluding, the newspaper says that the true peace that can achieve security and stability for everybody is the one that will be accepted by the people and that will achieve their ambitions. Such a peace cannot be established under occupation and usurpation of rights.

Lebanese Foreign Minister Arrives in Damascus

Meets With al-Shar', Others

JN1311171695 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1015 GMT 13 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Lebanese Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz arrived in Damascus this morning on a visit to the Syrian Arab Republic. He was received at Damascus western entrance by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', his assistant Rislan 'Allush, senior Foreign Ministry officials, and Lebanese Office Director Albert 'Asi.

In a statement to the SYRIAN ARAB NEWS AGENCY, Buwayz said: It is natural to visit Damascus whenever there is a new development in the region. The purpose of this visit is to consult with Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' on the latest regional developments, in addition to a number of international issues.

Meets al-Asad

JN1311171995 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1614 GMT 13 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Damascus, 12 Nov (SANA)—President Hafiz al-Asad received Lebanese Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz at al-Rawdah Palace at 1330 today.

The meeting was attended by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar'.

Buwayz conveyed to President al-Asad the wishes of Lebanese President Ilyas al-Hirawi, and his excellency asked him to convey similar wishes to President al-Hirawi.

Talks dealt with the situation in the region and peace process.

Discusses Peace Process With al-Shar'

JN1311212495 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1712 GMT 13 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Damascus, 13 Nov (SANA)—Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' received Lebanese Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz this morning.

Talks dealt with the developments in the region and the peace process. Talks also dealt with the Barcelona conference that will be held on 27-28 November.

Egyptian Foreign Minister Arrives on Visit

JN1411104295 Damascus SANA in Arabic 0930 GMT 14 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Damascus, 14 Nov (SANA) — Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa arrived in Damascus today on a visit to Syria. He was received by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', senior Foreign Ministry officials, and the Egyptian ambassador in Damascus and the embassy staff.

In a statement to a SANA correspondent, Musa said: I will convey a message to President Hafiz al-Asad from President Muhammad Husni Mubarak. This visit also falls within the context of the consultations between the leaders of the two countries over issues that concern their countries.

Reportage on Corrective Movement Celebrations

Ba'th Party Leader Speaks on Peace

JN1211134595 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1215 GMT 12 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] On the silver jubilee of the glorious Corrective Movement, comrade 'Abdallah al-Ahmar, assistant secretary general of the Arab Socialist

Ba'th Party and head of the Pan-Arab Committee for Arab Expatriates, has addressed a message to the brother Arab expatriates all over the world. [passage omitted]

Comrade al-Ahmar spoke about the peace process, noting that peace is Syria's strategic option. He said Syria adheres to the foundations and principles on which the peace process was launched, in order to achieve a just and comprehensive peace that restores the occupied territory of the Golan in full to the 4 June 1967 lines, southern Lebanon, and the Palestinian territory, including Arab Jerusalem.

Comrade al-Ahmar said Syria would never relinquish any Arab right. It is doing all it can to make the peace process succeed and achieve a true, viable peace. This peace must be just and comprehensive, based on international legitimacy, especially Security Council Resolutions 242, 338, and 425. These resolutions ensure the restoration of land and rights and achieve stability and security in the region.

Concluding, comrade al-Ahmar hoped the brother expatriates would be messengers of love and friendship who spread the values, principle, and culture of their nation. He urged them to defend the nation's just causes by adhering to Arab culture and explaining its contributions to human civilization. He also urged them to oppose all attempts at distortion carried out by the hostile Zionist media against the Arab nation.

Ba'th Party's Shihab Gives Speech

JN1211210295 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1730 GMT 12 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Damascus, 12 Nov (SANA)—A mammoth popular march was held in al-Yarmuk camp at noon today to celebrate the silver jubilee of the glorious Corrective Movement, launched by His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad, the builder of modern Syria and the nation's hope for attaining victory and liberation. [passage omitted]

In the midst of resounding applause and cheers wishing long life to President Hafiz al-Asad, the hero of liberation and the Corrective Movement, Ratib Shihab, secretary of the al-Yarmuk Branch of the Palestinian Organization of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party delivered the Ba'th Party's speech in which he praised the major and important achievements that were attained in all fields in Arab Syria under the canopy of the glorious Corrective Movement, emphasizing that Damascus has become an effective pivot on the regional and world level thanks to the enlightened leader and wise teacher Hafiz al-Asad.

Shihab said: The world at large has realized more than ever that Arab Syria's arm cannot be twisted, that defeat cannot be imposed on it, and its historic key role cannot be canceled. He added: Peace cannot be achieved without Syria, and a just, comprehensive, and honorable peace in the region will be attained on the basis of its stands, a peace that future generations will support.

Comrade Shihab criticized the Oslo and Wadi al-'Arabah agreements, and the Amman economic summit which seeks normalization and the handing over of the nation's resources to the Israeli entity.

Concluding his speech, he greeted in the name of the Palestinian people struggler President Hafiz al-Asad, the leader of the Corrective Movement, the leader of the Arab nation's march to victory and liberation, and the one who unleashed the nation's resources, and inspired its struggle.

Talal Naji, assistant secretary general of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command, then delivered a speech on behalf of the Palestinian national forces in which he expressed in the name of the militant Palestinian people everywhere their love for and loyalty to the great leader Hafiz al-Asad who took the Palestinian people and their revolution under his wing and defended them and their just cause and their aspirations against collapse and the squandering of their rights.

Talal Naji said that leader Hafiz al-Asad embodies the Arab nation's dignity, honor, and vigor in this difficult time as his excellency stood like an impregnable and lofty bastion in the face of capitulation, and called for the attainment of the peace of the brave, a just and honorable peace that secures the Israeli withdrawal from the Arab territories that were occupied in 1967 and the Palestinian people's right to repatriation.

Talal Naji said that Yasir 'Arafat who signed the agreements of surrender does not represent the Palestinian people because he disavowed his people's rights and the blood of their righteous martyrs who fell defending the right to repatriation and self-determination, and the establishment of a Palestinian state on Palestinian soil.

Talal Naji concluded: President Hafiz al-Asad, the Arab masses from the ocean to the Gulf trust you because you symbolize their honor and identity. Under your wise and courageous leadership, Arab Syria has become an important regional center to be taken into consideration on the regional and world level. There will be no peace in the region without Syria. Thousand greetings to you and to the valiant Syrian people and sincere congratulations on the silver jubilee of the glorious Corrective Movement. [passage omitted]

Commentary on Movement, Peace

JN1311195095 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1240 GMT 13 Nov 95

[Station commentary]

[FBIS Translated Text] Gentlemen: Our Syrian Arab people throughout Syria have been celebrating over the past days the 25th anniversary of the blessed corrective revolution, led by President Hafiz al-Asad.

Decorations, festivals, cheers, poems are everywhere in honor of the corrective revolution and its unique leader, whose achievements for Syria within a quarter of a century were thought to be impossible to achieve over a number of decades.

It is difficult, and even impossible to count these achievements, which are miracles considering the time in which they were made. However, we should pay attention to one of the most important things for which leader al-Asad has called since the dawn of the Corrective Movement; that is, peace.

Over the past 25 years, peace has been and continues to be one of Syria's dearest objectives. Syria believes that all energies and capabilities should be mobilized for the sake of peace, and that resources should be employed for development and reconstruction in an atmosphere of confidence that the achievements in development in all fields and the scope of reconstruction will last and grow, and will be for the benefit of the people and their welfare both at present and in the future, and will not be prone to destruction by wars, and the fires of war.

Peace was Syria's objective when, three years after the start of the Corrective Movement, and in light of Israel's disregard for the peace calls, Syria was forced to fight to liberate its land and seize its usurped rights. Syria believed and continues to believe that the continuous Israeli aggression, whose manifestations are still present, is the larger obstacle to peace.

Ranking world officials who heard President Hafiz al-Asad, became certain of Syria's eagerness to achieve peace, whose only condition is to secure its continuity through foundations that are built on right and justice. They have also become sure of Syria's readiness to meet the commitments of peace and the responsibilities resulting from that peace.

No one can claim that Syria has placed a single obstacle in the way of peace. Any one with a fair mind will hail Syria's positions and the efforts it made over the past four years to rescue the peace process from the threat of collapse caused by Israel's intransigence and insistence to reap the fruits of its aggression in the form of expansion in the Arab land and usurpation of the legitimate Arab rights.

Since the dawn of the Corrective Movement, peace has been and continues to be Syria's strategic option, to which it committed itself, and for which it opened wide doors for its realization in the region. This was based on Syria's faith in life and its values, and in the human being and his role in developing the earth, not destroying it. However, Syria will never allow any tempering with the meaning of peace or distortion of its meaning regardless of the circumstances. Peace that does not call for the liberation of the occupied land and the restoration of all usurped rights will not be realized.

Arab Solidarity, Coordination Urged

JN1111182095 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1230 GMT 11 Nov 95

[Station commentary]

[FBIS Translated Text] Gentlemen: Our masses and nation are celebrating these days the 25th anniversary of the glorious Corrective Movement led by President Hafiz al-Asad. This movement was really the beginning of a long militant march in which national achievements were incredible and through which national values were entrenched to defend the interests and decisive issues of the Arab nation.

Under the Corrective Movement, Syria considered the commitment to the nation's highest and decisive issues the criterion of pan-Arab action and the basis to strengthen Arab-Arab relations to confront the various challenges which the nation faced in many serious turning points and which the nation is still facing amid the storms of international and regional changes and the challenges of the peace battle. This battle is over fate, existence, and future.

In a moment of true pondering, any fair observer will acknowledge Syria's, continuous and great efforts, under President Hafiz al-Asad, to advance Arab-Arab relations and to work toward rectifying the methods of pan-Arab action. All this aims at serving the nation's interests and defending its causes in a delicate and serious stage in which Israel is trying, through partial agreements, to subjugate the entire nation to its hegemony and to shackle, not only its existence, but also its future generations.

There is no doubt that Syria's steadfastness in the face of Israeli schemes to impose its hegemony constitutes the main basis of national awakening to defend rights, land, and existence, to safeguard dignity, and to search for the sought future. This reiterates Syria's importance and the distinguished role of al-Asad in defending the nation, its land, and rights and to safeguard its freedom, dignity, existence, and future.

Set aside the factors which shook the Arab arena, weakened common Arab action, and paralyzed, for a while, the spirit of solidarity, coordination, and unity, it will become certain that the nation was never in need, as much as it is today, of solidarity and unity to defend its existence and future and to safeguard its rights and dignity.

Israel still advocates partial, inequitable agreements that can never lead to a just and comprehensive peace and stability in the region. Israel wants to dictate its conditions on the Arab parties to control the land, obliterate rights, and change the identity of the region. Syria, on the other hand, insists on a just and comprehensive peace in accordance with the Security Council resolutions that ensure the restoration of Arab territory and rights in full. Syria fought the battle of peace while demonstrating absolute confidence and capability. Syria never forgot that this battle is a pan-Arab one by all standards and requires that the Arabs rally around one strong position. This is because the outcome of the battle of peace will not only affect one Arab country or side, but will affect the Arab nation as a whole and its future.

Syria, therefore, called for, and adhered to, coordination and solidarity. Syria believes that others derive strength from its strength, as President Hafiz al-Asad said. Syria warned against abandoning coordination and cooperation, because the one who does this will weaken himself and subject himself to Israeli conditions. Israel took advantage of the unilateral action of some parties and the rush of other parties to normalization to dictate its own conditions, separate from the conditions and requirements of peace, which are primarily full withdrawal and acknowledgement of the legitimate rights of the Palestinian Arab people.

The foremost pan-Arab principle that should be observed is to deal with the world in light of the nation's interests and objectives and not to allow any attempt at distortion to make the Arabs digress from their road — the road of the masses which Syria took under the Corrective Movement towards liberation, development, and the preservation of dignity and rights.

Afghanistan

UN Asked To Help End Pakistani 'Interference'

LD1311201695 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 13 Nov 95

[Letter to UN Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali from Dr. Najibollah Lafra'i, minister of state for foreign affairs; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] To Butrus Butrus-Ghali, UN secretary general,

It is with great pleasure that I express my best wishes to you. I am writing to you following my letters of 14 and 16 September 1995 about the worsening situation in Afghanistan caused, particularly, by Pakistani interference.

The Taleban group, which is directly backed by the Government of Pakistan, has concentrated its forces around Kabul for some time, and has suffered a series of defeats at the hand of the Islamic Army of Afghanistan. It has failed to accomplish its unseemly plan of capturing Kabul. Contrary to Ms. Benazir Bhutto's claims that the Taleban are soldiers of peace, this group recently mounted extensive rocket attacks on Kabul which can be described as a kind of genocide of the Kabul residents. For instance, the Taleban group fired 170 rockets into residential areas of Kabul on 11 November; 37 people were martyred and more than 52 others injured. In addition, extensive material damage was caused.

Stressing its principled stance, the leadership of the Islamic State of Afghanistan is of the opinion that, concerning the transfer of power and support for your special envoy's good will efforts, Pakistani interference in the form of support for the Taleban and their firing of rockets against the innocent residents of Kabul constitutes an obstacle to inter-Afghan agreements. To put the solution of issues relating to Afghanistan on the right track, the Islamic State of Afghanistan asks you to use your international influence to bring pressure to bear on the Government of Pakistan to stop its interference in the internal affairs of our country and to end the brutal rocket attacks against the innocent residents of Kabul and against public utility installations. I ask your excellency to circulate this letter as an official document of the UN General Assembly and Security Council. I take this opportunity to renew the expression of my regard.

Iran's Borujerdi Meets With Rabbani in Kabul

LD1411113695 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 14 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] In continuation of our country's efforts to help restore peace and stability in Afghanistan, the Deputy Foreign Minister for Asia and Pacific Affairs Mr. ['Ala'eddin] Borujerdi, arrived in Kabul this morning.

According to the Central News Unit, Mr. Borujerdi met with Afghanistan's president [Borhanoddin Rabbani] this morning and told him that the best way to solve the current problems faced by Afghanistan is through talks — and the Islamic Republic of Iran, will, as always, endeavor to realize this important objective.

At the meeting with Mr. Borujerdi, the president of Afghanistan thanked the Islamic Republic of Iran for its relentless efforts to establish peace and stability in Afghanistan. He expressed regret at the missile attacks on Kabul, saying: We are prepared to solve problems through talks and understandings, and we call on the Islamic Republic of Iran, as a powerful neighbor, to continue its efforts toward the establishment of tranquillity in Afghanistan.

According to this report, Mr. Borujerdi also met with Afghanistan's Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Mr. Najibollah Lafra'i. The two men discussed bilateral relations and ways of restoring peace in Afghanistan.

Rabbani Chairs High State Council Session

LD1211184295 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 12 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] A session of the High State Council was held today under the chairmanship of Professor Borhanoddin Rabbani, president of the Islamic State of Afghanistan and president of the High State Council. [passage omitted]

The High State Council strongly condemned recent rocket attack by the hireling Taleban on Kabul where more than 35 of our compatriots including children, women and elderly people were martyred and 50 others injured. It was asserted in the meeting that this attack once again revealed the real faces of this savage group. Those who demagogically spoke about peace and tranquillity for the people attacked the civilian areas with rockets and added to their unforgivable crimes when they failed to achieve success militarily in the face of the Islamic Army force's resistance. Condemning this brutality by the hireling Taleban, the High State Council expressed condolences to the relatives of the martyrs and to the injured persons in the 11 November incident.

The Council decided to render urgent assistance to them. Every martyr's family shall be paid 500,000 afghanis and the injured people between 100,000 and 300,000 afghanis. In today's session a series of other issues were also discussed and due decision was made on every subject.

Council Urges Negotiations To End War

LD1311095295 Tehran IRNA in English
0833 GMT 13 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kabul, Nov. 13, IRNA — The only solution to the Afghan crisis is to sit around the negotiation table and foster understanding among the belligerent groups, according to the Supreme Council of the Afghanistan Government. The Supreme Council also called on the opposition to refrain from insisting on continuing the war and the killings.

The council, presided over by Afghan President Borhanoddin Rabbani, is the highest policy-making body in the country and is comprised of high-ranking government officials, as well as three parties such as the Ettehad-e Eslami (Islamic Unity), Hezb-e Wahdat-e Eslami (Islamic Unity Party) headed by Hojjat ol-Eslam Mohammad Akbari, and Harakat-e Eslami-e Afghanistan (the Islamic Movement of Afghanistan) led by Ayatollah 'Asef Mohammad Mohseni.

In a meeting presided by Rabbani on Sunday [12 November], it was underscored that none of the belligerent groups in Afghanistan is able to defeat others on its own and problems cannot be solved through military actions.

Reviewing the political-military conditions in Afghanistan, the council blamed opposition attempts to continue with the war and the massacre. It also announced its readiness to hold negotiations and bring about understanding among the groups.

More than 50 rocket and artillery shells were fired at Kabul by Taleban forces on Friday, wounding and killing about a hundred people aside from the complete destruction of scores of residences.

Government Forces Capture 10 Taleban Villages

LD1211175495 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network
in Pashto 1530 GMT 12 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Ten more villages and 30 security posts of Benazir Bhutto's Taleban came under the control of the Islamic army forces and mojahedin today. The BAKHTAR INFORMATION AGENCY correspondents who have visited the first lines of the front reported that after capturing two villages and 11 Taleban fortifications, today the Islamic army forces brought under their control the villages of Qal'eh-ye Now, Qal'eh-ye (Kocha), Bazikheyl, Qal'eh-ye Sorkh, Atam Kheyl, Qal'eh-ye (Safdar), Kolangar, Qal'eh-ye Seddiq, Karizak, and Katah Kheyl around Kowt-e 'Ashrow. The Badam hills and some hilltops around Kowt-e 'Ashrow and Taleban's 30 security posts were also captured during today's operation by the Islamic army mojahedin. The operation was launched with the active participation of Sher Alam, commander of 30th division, Qodratollah, a commander of presidential guards, Maqsud Khan, from department 10 in the security department, Qadam Shah, a commander in the 1st division, Baba Shirin, commander from the special brigade, and commanders Jamshid Khan and Hamidollah. During today's battle 50 of the enemy were killed and 100 others injured. As many as 20 dead bodies of the Taleban were left on the battlefield. The Islamic army mojahedin captured a large quantity of various kinds of ammunition and dozens of pieces of light and heavy weapons. The mojahedin advance to clear up the areas around Kowt-e 'Ashrow continues.

According to another report Fahim, the head of National Security, Sher Alam, commander of 30th division, Ahmadi, commander of the 1st division, and some other Islamic army commanders paid a visit to the captured areas.

Twenty Villages Said 'Cleared' by Government

LD1311185195 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network
in Pashto 1530 GMT 13 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Twenty villages were cleared up in Sholgara district during an operation by the Islamic army forces last night. During the overnight operation, the villages of Barfak, Chemtal, Chakabe, Shamalak, Upper and Lower Sorkhabe, Haji Wali, [word indistinct], Tapa-e Naw, Peraki, Walatora, Bala Hisar, Haftakhana, Qalacho, Chak-o-Almas, Qarachah, and [words indistinct] in Sholgara district were cleared of the opponents. Dozens of them were killed and eight others taken prisoner. As a result of this operation one BM [multi-barrel rocket launcher] and two rocket launchers and a quantity of light and heavy weapons along with their ammunition were captured by the Islamic army forces. A number of the enemy's motor vehicles were set ablaze.

According to reports from jihadi sources in the north, Commander Sayd Ahmad and 30 other opponents joined the Islamic army forces and promised to fight against the opponents.

Mojahedin Reportedly Capture Strategic Area

LD1311181995 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 13 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Badam Qowl, the nearest area to the center of Kowt-e 'Ashrow, was captured by the mojahedin today; yesterday evening two Taleban helicopters crashed in (?Dasht-e Chiwan) in Ghazni.

Quoting Armed Forces sources, BAKHTAR reports that continuing their clearing-up operation around Kowt-e 'Ashrow, the Islamic army forces cleared up the strategically important area of Badam Qowl and the surrounding villages today. The location of Badam Qowl enables the Islamic Armed Forces to directly target Kowt-e 'Ashrow with their weapons. During today's operation the air force bombers bombed the Taleban's concentrations and heavy weapons' positioned in the south of Kabul and Kowt-e 'Ashrow. No information has so far been received about the loss of life among the Taleban.

In another incident, two Taleban helicopters crashed in (?Dasht-e Chiwan) in Ghazni. Both helicopters' passengers were killed. An unconfirmed report says that Taleban leader Mulla Omar was among the passengers. Although the cause of the helicopters' crash is unknown yet, the Taleban's internal differences, which have been simmering for a long time, may be the cause of the crash.

Reports from the Taleban controlled area say that foreigners and Mrs. Bhutto's officers are issuing orders and that the Taleban have no authority in the area. Mistrust of the Taleban could yet be another cause of the crash.

The Islamic army forces captured 10 villages around Kowt-e 'Ashrow yesterday, and the mojahedin advance is continuing successfully. [passage omitted]

Kabul Under Attack From 'Benazir Bhutto's Taleban'

LD1311182595 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 13 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] It is reported that today Benazir Bhutto's Taleban again fired rockets into the residential areas of Kabul. According to a BAKHTAR correspondent, residential areas of Kabul were targeted by four rockets today. As a result one person was martyred and 16 others injured. The rockets were fired from the south of Kabul, from where Benazir Bhutto's Taleban savagely bombarded the city the other day. As well as the loss of life and injuries, the bombardment caused material damage.

IRNA Reports on Battles With Dostam's Forces

LD1411095095 Tehran IRNA in English 0934 GMT 14 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kabul, Nov. 14, IRNA — Twenty more villages at the Sholgara region of Balkh Province in northern Afghanistan were recaptured by Afghan government troops yesterday, according to reports from the Afghan Defense Ministry.

In a statement released Monday [13 November] night, the ministry claimed that the government inflicted heavy casualties in the battles with the forces of Uzbek warlord 'Abdol-Rashid Dostam, who leads the Islamic National Movement in northern Afghanistan. During the confrontations, scores of troops fighting for the Dostam faction were killed or injured and eight more were taken as prisoners of war, added the statement. The Afghan Defense Ministry also stated that one of the commanders of the Islamic National Movement, Seyyed Ahmad, along with 30 others, joined the government side in northern Afghanistan.

The Kabul regime in the last two days has issued statements that it has recovered over ten villages in the north, in the process taking a sizable quantity of weapons and ammunition as war booty.

The claims made by the Afghan government are yet to be confirmed by independent sources in view of the difficult access to the region.

India

Spokesman Views Talks With Robin Raphel

BK1411012295 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 13 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] India has conveyed to the United States its firm position against the American decision to supply sophisticated weapons to Pakistan. The secretary, west, in the External Affairs Ministry, Mr. V.K. Grover, told the visiting U.S. assistant secretary for South Asian affairs, Miss Robin Raphel, in New Delhi today that it has caused strong and adverse reaction among political circles and the public. He also told her that Islamabad has not so far shown any willingness to hold direct talks with India on resolving all bilateral differences.

Briefing newspersons, an External Affairs Ministry spokesman said the talks covered, besides bilateral and international issues, the current situation in Afghanistan, which Miss Raphel visited earlier. The secretary, west, expressed the government's concern over Pakistan's attempt to remove the present government in Afghanistan through its proxy, the Taleban. The Indian side briefed the U.S. assistant secretary on the government's efforts to firmly combat Pakistan-instigated terrorism and to restore normalcy in Jammu and Kashmir. Both sides agreed that the current differences, particularly on the U.S. proposal to supply a package of military equipment to Pakistan should not be allowed to interrupt the momentum in the expansion of Indo-U.S. cooperation in areas like trade and investment.

Minister Says Decision on Enron Issue by 10 Dec

BK0911071595 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1530 GMT 8 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Maharashtra Chief Minister Manohar Joshi today said the outcome of the discussions between the expert committee appointed by the state government and Enron officials, as well as the cabinet decision on the issue is expected before the 10th of next month. Mr. Joshi told newsmen in Bombay that the second meeting was held today as per the terms of reference which include reduction in the total cost of the project, reduction in the tariff rate, pollution, and development.

Mr. Joshi also announced that another two persons will represent the Maharashtra government's expert committee. The chairman of the Maharasthra State Electricity Board, MSEB, Mr. M.P. Tiklu, and accounts consultant, Mr. T.N.B. Iyer, have been added in the state expert team. The expert team now comprises of six members.

Pakistan's Bhutto's Call for Iran's Mediation Viewed

BK1011035895 Delhi THE PIONEER in English 9 Nov 95 p 8

[Editorial: "Benazir Turns to Iran"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Pakistani Prime Minister, Ms Benazir Bhutto's appeal for Iranian mediation to solve the Kashmir problem is as preposterous as her previous suggestions on the same issue. All the same, her suggestion has an insidious value. Officially, she is in Iran to allay Tehran's fears of the emergence of a government backed by Islamabad and its mentor, the United States, in Kabul. She will attempt to arrive at some sort of understanding with the establishment in Tehran, which is none too happy with the Pakistani sponsorship of the Taleban. In terms of strategic ambition, both Iran and Pakistan are cast in much the same mould, with one difference, however. Islamabad has American backing to continue making mischief in the region, particularly in Afghanistan. Iran, on the other hand, works on a freelance basis. Both countries have invested heavily in Afghanistan. America is vehemently opposed to Iran and expresses its displeasure through trade sanctions and calling Iran a rogue state, while at the same time chooses to overlook the very qualities in Pakistan that makes Iran repugnant to it.

In one sense, Ms Bhutto, who invests a lot of time and effort in foreign travel, is addressing her audiences back home when she turns to Iran for help. It is one way of justifying her frequent travels abroad. But part of her appeal is also directed towards the establishment in Tehran, which is not exactly united. Even President Rafsanjani's approach to Kashmir is ambivalent in a circumspect sort of way. The Islamic component provides the most substantial thrust to its foreign policy. On the question of Kashmir, it has previously expressed a willingness to mediate, provided there was a consensus on the issue. In the clear absence of any such consensus, however, Mr Rafsanjani has confined himself to expressing concern that the Kashmiri voice is not being given enough importance by New Delhi. Mr Rafsanjani's remarks are clearly a concession to the more hard line elements within Tehran. It is this equivocation that Ms Bhutto hopes to end, and with that objective she can be expected to offer Tehran accommodation on Afghanistan. In that sense, Ms Bhutto wants to exploit the divisions in the Iranian establishment to force it to be more strident in its calls, hoping that it will work to her advantage by the time the next OIC [Organization of the Islamic Conference] summit takes place. How far the peripatetic prime minister of Pakistan will succeed will depend largely on the manner and pace New Delhi consolidates its relations with Tehran. For this, India will have to ask Iran to reciprocate the help it is giving Tehran to open a window to the world at large.

Rao Returns From Trip, Comments on Ghana Visit

BK1011062495 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 10 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The prime minister, Mr. P.V. Narasimha Rao, arrived in New Delhi this morning at the end of his three-nation tour of Burkina Faso, Argentina, and Ghana. He was received at the airport by his cabinet colleagues and senior officials.

Earlier at the end of his two-day visit to Ghana, the prime minister was given a ceremonial send off at Accra last evening. During his stay in Accra, Mr. Narasimha Rao met the heads of Indian missions from various African countries. It was felt at the meeting that importance should be given for cooperation in the field of agriculture in Africa and increased Indian private sector involvement in projects in the countries of the region. The prime minister met several groups of people, including the Indian community, the chiefs of armed forces, regional ministers of Ghana's province, and the vice chancellors of Ghana's universities.

Talking to newsmen on board the plane on his way back home, Mr. Rao said that the time is ripe now for India to enter Africa's development field in a big way. He said the African countries themselves are now in a mood to accept investments in their immediate programs. They find Indian technology more relevant to their needs.

Describes Ghana Visit as 'Pathbreaking'

BK1011095895 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 10 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The prime minister said that time is now ripe for India to enter Africa's development field in a big way. Talking to newsmen on board the plane on his way back home from Accra, Mr. Rao said the African countries are now in a mood to accept investments in their immediate programs. They find Indian technology more relevant to their needs. The prime minister said there has been a definite change from the past as Africa has opened up its economy. He said during his talks with the leaders in Burkina Faso and Ghana, they wanted India to help them in several areas. Describing his visit as pathbreaking, Mr. Rao said the visit has made a good beginning in strengthening relations with them.

In a joint communique issued at the end of two-day visit of the prime minister to Ghana, both the sides reaffirmed their commitment for joint action against international terrorism and drug trafficking. While referring to various conflicts in Asia and Africa, President Rawlings of Ghana supported resolving the Kashmir issue through dialogue under the Simla Agreement. On bilateral matters, India has agreed to consider cooperation in improving Ghana's telecommunication system. Both the countries also agreed to cooperate in developing a nodal small-scale industrial estate and hand tool manufacturing and training institutes in Ghana. India has agreed to consider Ghana's request for a $5 million credit to buy medicines and equipment from India. The two sides will also interact on boosting tourism and trade, besides cooperation in agriculture, science, and technology. Both the countries called upon the developed nations to make their markets more accessible to developing countries. Mr. Narasimha Rao and Mr. Rawlings called upon the developed world to find a solution to the debt problem of the developing nations. The communique wanted representation of developing countries in any expansion of the UN Security Council. The two sides also stressed the need for global nuclear disarmament and a nondiscriminatory approach to the issue.

The prime minister has returned to New Delhi this morning at the end of his three-nation tour of Burkina Faso, Argentina, and Ghana.

BJP Urges 'Highest Priority' to Defense Status

BK0811143095 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 8 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] has called upon the center to give highest priority to defense preparedness to counter the threat from across the borders. In a resolution adopted on the concluding day of the two-day national executive meeting of the party in Pune, it said the defense funding is barely sufficient to maintain the required operational levels. The resolution said Pakistan is not only waging a low intensity proxy war in Jammu and Kashmir against India, but also is expanding and modernizing its armed forces.

The BJP executive meeting also adopted two resolutions on economic and political developments in the country.

Missing Japanese Tourist Reportedly in Israel

BK1411112095 Hong Kong AFP in English 1104 GMT 14 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] SRINAGAR, India, Nov 14 (AFP) — Indian police called off a massive manhunt in Kashmir after they discovered the Japanese tourist they were looking for was not missing, but had left his accommodation without telling anyone and flown to Israel.

Police launched the hunt Monday [13 November] after Chiba Kazuakiba was reported missing after not being seen since November 5 at the house boat he had rented.

Initially it was feared that he may have suffered the same fate as a group of western tourists who were kidnapped by separatist guerrillas while hiking, but it turned out Kazuakiba had taken a taxi to Jammu where he had taken a train to New Delhi then flown to Israel Sunday, police said.

Police and the Japanese embassy in New Delhi are investigating why Kazuakiba left without informing the owner of the house boat on which he was booked till November 30 and why he left his luggage behind.

Two Delhi-based Japanese diplomats, who came here looking for Kazuakiba, confirmed he had left the country and asked the police to call off their search.

In July the police initially announced the kidnapping of four western tourists by saying they had been "reported missing."

It later emerged that Britons Paul Wells, 23 and Keith Mangan, 33, German Dirk Hasert, 26, and American Donald Hutchings, 42, were kidnapped by the Al-Faran Moslem rebel group. They are still being held.

A fifth hostage, 27-year-old Norwegian Hans Christian Ostro, was beheaded by the militants in August.

Parties Hail Move Not To Hold Kashmir Elections

BK1111093895 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 11 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] More reactions have come in on the Election Commission's decision not to hold assembly polls in Jammu and Kashmir at present. The National Conference leader, Dr. Farooq Abdullah, termed this as a pro-people decision. The Janata Dal spokesman, Mr. Jaipal Reddy, said that his party shares the commission's assessment. The CPI-M [Communist Party of India- Marxist] general secretary, Mr. Harkishan Singh Surjeet, said though his party is not opposed to the polls, it wants a proper atmosphere to be created before the elections. Welcoming the Election Commission's decision, the CPI [Communist Party of India] leader, Mr. Farooqi, said more autonomy should be given to the state before holding elections. The former union minister, Dr. Karan Singh, also welcomed the commission's decision.

The Congress-I has described the Election Commission's decision as a setback to the political process in the state. The joint secretary of the party in charge of Jammu and Kashmir affairs, Major Ved Prakash, said that the party will go to the people in a planned manner so that a situation conducive to hold elections is created and polls are held early.

Expressing regret over the Election Commission's decision, the home minister, Mr. S.B. Chavan, that the commission was perhaps looking for ideal conditions for the conduct of the polls in the state. In a statement, he said everybody is aware that the conditions in the state are not being allowed to be normal and the main factor is the supply of arms, men, and material from across the border to fuel terrorism.

Government To Resubmit Kashmir Elections Request

BK1211161695 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 12 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The home minister, Mr. S.B. Chavan, says the government will reassess the situation in Jammu and Kashmir and resubmit the request to the Election Commission to hold elections in the state. Talking to newsmen in Vijayavada today, he said the government does not want to enter into any confrontation with the Election Commission and will go by its opinion. However, he added that as long as instigation from across the border continues, the situation will not improve and even then elections will have to be held. He said that in the present situation there is no option but to extend the president's rule in Jammu and Kashmir.

Effect of Punjab 'Terrorism' on Kashmir Viewed

96AS0004C Jalandhar PUNJAB KESARI in Hindi 21 Sep 95 p 4

[Article by A.N. Dhar: "Will the Events in Punjab Effect Kashmir Also?"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Anyone can say a lot about the insufficient efforts of the Congress party for the next election, however, Congress took a courageous step in Kashmir that will definitely win it some points. By organizing a public meeting near Baramula recently, it showed its capability which will improve its image. It is true that this meeting was organized in an area from where terrorists were wiped out. The Gujars, who have not been influenced by the terrorists, attended the meeting in large numbers. An effort to hold a meeting in an area which was considered very dangerous until recently shows that one benefits from one's actions if they are taken in good faith.

The National Conference lags in demonstrating such courage. We cannot criticize it for this failure. Whenever its leader, Farookh Abdullah was questioned why he and his followers are not confronting the terrorists in Kashmir, he admitted that the situation was so bad that neither he could live there himself nor could he send his followers there as sacrificial goats. He could not get the protection necessary and there was the fear of his followers being wiped out. This, however, is not a very satisfying clarification. Innumerable persons in Kashmir are losing their lives for a dream and not getting any thing in return. The situation is not getting better there.

Prime Minister Narasimha Rao and General Karishan Rao (Retd.), governor of Kashmir, are eager to hold elections before the winter starts. However, the question is: Is it possible? Will the people be able to come out to vote and if they manage to reach the voting booths, will they be safe after they vote? Will they be able to return to their homes safely? These always have been valid questions that Kashmiris ask. Those who have lost their homes do not know if they can vote or not. The situation prevalent in Kashmir does not allow answers to these questions.

Most people have the question of providing adequate security for those who have declared themselves pro-India. Officials have failed to apprehend Mast Gul and his associates who had changed Charar-i Sharif into ashes, they cannot answer the questions posed to them easily. Those people who do not know how the body of the Norwegian tourist had reached where the police found it, cannot know how to deal with the terrorists. Those who do not even know how a car was blown up in front of the State Bank of India on the busy Residency Road cannot give courage to others. These are the incidents of war and the terrorists are benefitting from elements such as "surprise" and "suddenness."

In this situation, people have started to mention Kashmir and Punjab in the same breath. Some persons are still citing Punjab. It is true that elections were held in Punjab, although the percentage of people who voted was very low. These elections also helped provide legitimacy to the democratic government. Not only was a competent government established there, the officials were also able to suppress terrorism. In Punjab, law and order was established in two years and the terrorists disappeared. Business and trade was also established. The government was as stabile and effective as it could be.

This situation was greatly effected by the assassination of Chief Minister Beant Singh. A lot will depend now whether the officials succeed in controlling the situation in Punjab or not. This is important for not only Punjab but also for Kashmir. When Punjab was becoming peaceful, some people had said that the government could do the same thing [in Kashmir] as it had succeeded in doing in Punjab. However, this comparison was not fully accurate. The situation in both states was not really similar. It was natural that the situation in Kashmir did not improve as it did in Punjab.

At the same time, we should not forget that when the situation in Punjab was very bad, the situation in Kashmir had also gotten worse. The terrorists and their leaders in Kashmir thought that since the government could not control the situation in Punjab, it could not control it in Kashmir either. This situation gives courage to the terrorists in Kashmir and their mentors in Pakistan. That is why whatever happens in Punjab has important ramifications for the situation in Kashmir.

The most important support for the terrorists is the appeal of religious fundamentalism and the benefit of the element of surprise. If the terrorists can benefit from these in Punjab, they can do the same in Kashmir. Another common support was the encouragement that both got from Pakistan. Whenever there is any uncertainty in Punjab, it effects the situation in Kashmir.

It is a coincidence that this terrible explosion occurred in Chandigarh. A similar scary incident could have happened in Jammu. The terrorists were almost successful in staging such an incident during the Republic Day parade. Governor General Krishna Rao had escaped narrowly when the bomb had exploded only a few inches from him. A similar situation to the one caused by Mr. Beant Singh's assassination could have been created a few months earlier in Jammu also. After the Chandigarh blast, a car was blown up on the very safe Residency Road in Srinagar. It was fortunate that the terrorists could not spread much fear in Jammu and Kashmir, although they had also attacked the BBC office and many persons were killed in the car explosion. The situation is still very critical there. It is paradoxical that while the people are fed up with terrorism, their attitude toward New Delhi has not softened. The situation in Punjab was different. Terrorism was waning there and it was easy to establish control there.

After Beant Singh's assassination, a leader of the Babbar Khalsa told Islamabad's THE NEWS that, "the path to Jammu and Kashmir goes through Khalistan." It is not true that Khalistan is ready to be established. This does point to the fact that the Punjabi terrorists also want to be heard in Kashmir. That is their desire.

It is necessary that New Delhi takes some well-planned action. Some kind of organized action is necessary for defeating the terrorists in the north. It does not appear that much work has been done in this area. When the terrorists are pressured in Kashmir, they emerge in Jammu. When the situation for them becomes difficult in Punjab, they move to the Terai [Nepal-Uttar Pradesh Border Area]. For example, when fires were raging in Kashmir, Doda was shaken up. With better planning and with the help of intelligence work, Doda could have been made more secure. How will the government chase the terrorists from one region to another? This is an important question.

The reasoning of the people who were privy to information that security arrangement for Beant Singh was at several levels, but there was no coordination, carried a lot of weight. This should not be repeated while dealing with the terrorists in the north. There are common grounds from which the terrorists gain support. The source of manpower and equipment is the same. Similarly, there is a common ground for weakening the Center at any cost.

It is imperative for New Delhi to assure people that it is serious in confronting the terrorists in a scientific and organized way. It is in the government's interest to gain the confidence of the people in its actions. The people had thought that the situation would improve in Kashmir after the stable situation in Punjab was created, however, the people are disappointed now. The government has to make sure that the people do not lose courage after the explosion in Punjab.

If it is possible, the terrorists should not have the upper hand. The situation has improved with the successful pilgrimage of Amarnath after the Charar-i Sharif incident. However, this feeling of relief did not last long. The ray of hope that had risen has disappeared after the bomb blasts in Kashmir and what happened in Chandigarh. The Chandigarh explosion has demonstrated that terrorism is not yet taking its last breath. It may appear to be weakening; it has not ended. The government has to become more alert.

Article Addresses Role of Overseas Sikhs

96AS0007D Varanasi AJ in Hindi 26 Sep 95 p 6

[Article by Radheshyam Sharma: "Now Everyone is Looking at the World Sikh Conference"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Terrorist organizations, after the death of Sardar Beant Singh, perhaps feel that the bad reputation of their dreadful deeds may be subdued and they may overcome lost trust. The truth is that neither the Akali Dal, the Congress nor any other party has an acceptable Sikh leader at this time. Even Sardar Gurcharan Singh Tehra who is the chairman of the Shiroman Gurudwara Prabandhak Committee for the past 25 years is not universally accepted as a Sikh leader capable of control and managing the Punjab politics.

Introduction to Universal Appeal

These circumstances make the World Sikh Conference notable. Its main goal is to make the Sikhs emerge as a political power in Punjab and India, to bring them in light as an international entity, and to demonstrate that they have support from Sikhs internationally. It is important to note that the demand for a "Punjabi Suba", "Sikh Homeland", and "Khalistan" nas always come from various external worldwide Sikh organizations. It was only after the World Sikh Educational Conference and World Sikh Convention that the Punjab politics emerged. It is puzzling that the Akali Dal, to please the Sikhs, always struggled for separatism, and at the same time the Congress chief ministers in the name of reconciliation instituted demands for "Sikh Recognition" for political benefit of Sikhs which resulted in an increased awareness for Sikh separatism. This later took the form of a serious movement for separation.

The World Sikh Conference warrants special attention because of this background. It is an effort to bring together various Sikh organizations split and spread through out the world. It also has importance in view of the upcoming Lok and Vidhan Sabhas elections. This conference is an unseen effort to unite prominent Akali leaders like Prakash Singh Badal, Gurchan Singh Tohra, Jagdev Singh Talwandi, Simranjeet Singh Man, Captain Kanwaljeet Singh, Kuldeep Singh Batala, Surjeet Singh Barnala, Amerendra Singh (Patiala ruler), who have their own separate groups, by inciting and imposing religious Panth sentiments, to fill in the gap caused in the Congress Sikh leadership by the death of Sardar Beant Singh.

Shadow of Controversy

This convention is, however, not free from controversy. Several controversies and factionalism have erupted as a result of this convention. Several Sikh leaders are suspicious of other Sikh leaders with their aspirations to become world Sikh leaders. This has prompted one Sikh group to support the convention and the other to vehemently oppose it. Certain Sikh groups have openly declared a boycott of the convention. It is interesting that even on the world stage Sikhs groups are divided. The real issue is who in fact is the leader or spokesman of the Sikhs globally?

On the other hand, past experience tells that whenever Sikh leaders stand divided on any issue they use terrorist slogans to prove themselves as the highest keeper of the Panth and well wisher of the Sikhs which enhances separatism. This strengthens terrorism because the terrorists aim to achieve those goals by quickly eliminating the hurdles. They also claim to be the great saviours of the community.

All this intensifies the feeling that those who are more vigorous and intense in their support for communal separation are better saviours and protectors of the Sikhs and the Panth. Such competition has ruined the traditional atmosphere of Punjab and has given rise to several problems. The smiling, dancing and happy Punjab is thus engulfed in the politics of terrorism, hatred and death.

It is reported that delegates from over hundred countries including the United States, Canada, England, Norway, Switzerland, Kenya, Uganda, Australia, Thailand, and New Zealand will participate in the convention. It is noteworthy that many Sikhs in several countries including the United States, Canada, and England have settled for generations and have become citizens of those countries. They are also very well to do. In the United States they have thousands of acres of agricultural farms. Many are industrialists. They may be the local citizens but amongst themselves they have always publicized the need for a "Sikh Homeland" in India. Foreign forces and Pakistani secret organizations have aroused this sentiment. These foreign settled Sikh leaders have met in Pakistan numerous times. Several such Khalistan supporting Sikh leaders had their visas to visit India revoked after making remarks in Islamabad. Pakistan had provided training and modern weapons to terrorists.

Debate in the U.S. Congress

During the first session of the 104th U.S. Congress in its House of Representatives, this year in February 1995, statements made by Representatives Burton, Calahoun, Bonier, Torracelli, Dralittle, Flake, Abercrombe, Wakmer, and Cunnigham are disturbing. The Council of Khalistan has extensively distributed portions of their statements. These statements spit venom against India. They mention that the government (Indian) has killed twenty thousand people in Kashmir. Similar one sided and inciting statements are made in regard to Punjab and Nagaland. Their law is termed as "Black Law", and do not even mention killings of the innocent by terrorists. On the contrary, they propose that the U.S. provide assistance to the non-government agencies in these states. Such findings are based on the unilateral reports prepared by the so called human rights organization and the terrorist organizations. Indications are that these issues will be discussed in the world convention. Babbar Khalsa International has already announced that it will act in collaboration with the terrorist organizations in Kashmir, the Northeast and in South India. Belittling remarks in regard to the efforts made by the government and other security forces to establish peace and to curb the terrorist activities are aired in such conventions in India too.

It is said that the convention will discuss issues on Sikh education, language, and economic status. Can discussions on politics be ignored? Once, Prakash Singh Badal after such an educational conference had cancelled teaching of Hindi as an optional subject in Punjab schools which even continues today. In the name of "Sikh Awareness", and "Excesses on Sikhs" these conventions have injured the feelings of brotherhood and peace in the state. No one should object dialogues on religion in a democracy but in the wake of those discussions separatism should be discouraged, the unity of the nation and unison of the country should always be supreme for the people of all faiths.

The question is: will the Sikh convention not encourage separatism? Will it not support the demand for a separate nation? Today Punjab is passing through a very delicate stage. It has seen peace after a decade but constant monitoring of the situation is essential. Any activity in this boarder state to encourage separatism and terrorism will be injurious to the country. On the other side Pakistan stands ready. This convention should certainly discuss the welfare and progress of Sikhs but any seen or unseen motivation to separatism will be harmful to the state unity. The status of this convention will be enhanced only when it keeps away from the politics of terrorism and glorifies the Sikh prestige. Every one is specially looking toward this convention because the Sikh politics is on test now.

Apprehension for overwhelming of the conventions in debates are natural. Any use of terrorist and seperationist slogans by the conveners to gain cheap publicity will augment disputes, instability, and agitation.

Iran

U.S. Decisions Said Made in 'Cold War' Atmosphere

LD1311192395 Tehran IRNA in English
1818 GMT 13 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Nov. 13, IRNA — Foreign Ministry spokesman, Mahmud Mohammadi said here on Monday [13 November] the U.S. Government seemed to make decisions in the atmosphere of the Cold War era.

In reaction to the recent moves of the U.S. Congress and Government to adopt punitive measures against the international companies cooperating with Iran, Mohammadi said the U.S. had better reconsider its current policy which subject its long-term interests to the routine political issues.

On the occasion of a conference in Tehran on oil cooperation attended by international and domestic companies studying partnership in oil industry development worth seven billion dollars, the U.S. Congress has gone on a debate to adopt punitive measures against the international companies working with Iran.

Mohammadi said the U.S. has already announced a unilateral trade embargo based on a series of illusory allegations against Iran, adding that the United States assumes that once it cuts off economic coperation with other nations, the economic cycle would come to a complete standstill and that this cycle could be activated only through that country.

He pointed out that when it sees that this cycle does not cease to follow its natural course in the business world of today even in the absence of the United States, it tries to design plans against the world economic system.

The Foreign Ministry spokesman concluded, "We believe that the insistence on treading on a wrong path would lead to yet bigger mistakes."

Taleban Called U.S. 'Bulldozer' in Afghanistan

NC1011212995 Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 2 Nov 95 p 15

[Commentary from the "Weekly Political Analysis" column: "The Talebans: The U.S. Bulldozer in Afghanistan"]

[FBIS Translated Text] This week, more light has been shed on the political, military, and propaganda overtures around the problem of Afghanistan. Until recently, facts may have been needed to prove the role played by the United States, Pakistan, and Saudi Arabia in inflating the Taleban group. But things have cleared up and become so overt in the past few weeks that Pakistani generals too have actively participated in the Taleban front line in southern Kabul, and the Pakistani Government too has explicitly and officially spoken in support of the Talebans.

Pakistan has stressed that the Rabbani government should step down and it has even designated what the future government in Kabul should be like. This has hurt the feelings of some of the groups that collaborated with the Talebans and thought that they would be granted a bigger role.

Continuous trips by U.S. officials to Pakistan, not to mention their presence inside Afghanistan and their meeting with Taleban representatives, have been so extensively revealed that no one seems to want to insist on covering up or negating overt U.S. interference into Afghanistan's domestic issues. Meanwhile, some of Kabul's former allies have gradually started to move away from Kabul and closer to the Talebans, hoping that in the future they will be granted a part. But it seems unlikely that even the Talebans, who are acting as "a U.S. bulldozer in Afghanistan" and are paving the way for the United States today will be granted a bigger or longer-term role in the future political calculations in Afghanistan than the one they are now playing. The clear meaning behind this is that even the Talebans' turn will come shortly and that the "autumn of the Talebans in Kabul" will come much sooner than expected.

Paper: U.S. Taleban Aid Crime Against Humanity

LD1311112295 Tehran IRNA in English 1052 GMT 13 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Nov. 13, IRNA — The United States which claims to be the champion of human rights should be reminded that through giving assistance to the Taleban, it is committing the worst possible crime against humanity, an English-language daily commented Monday [13 November].

The daily IRAN NEWS quoted a report by the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) as announcing in Geneva Friday that it was suspending its educational programs in regions of Afghanistan where the Taleban have shut down schools for girls.

It also quoted an informed source as saying that "a large number of refugees from Afghanistan's Herat Province have entered the Iranian territory because they could not tolerate the suppressive radical Taleban.

UNICEF's decision was made based on the U.N. children's rights convention which prohibits discrimination and was signed by 181 countries including Afghanistan, it noted.

These negative developments were expected in Iran because of the very radical nature of the Taleban, the article said warning the progressive elements of the world against the erratic and unreasonable policies of the Taleban.

It further called on world leaders and policymakers to voice their opposition to this group which represents a black spot on the great religion of Islam.

Referring to reports, it said, "The Taleban have not only closed schools for girls, but have also confined the women to their homes and won't allow them to come out on streets, go to their offices or shop for their daily needs."

The Taleban have done all this in the name of Islam, and have thus inflicted a heavy blow to the divine religion of Islam, it underlined.

"These radicals are being supported, fed and armed by the United States and Saudi Arabia who are flooding monetary, political and military assistance to the Taleban through Pakistan," the paper underscored.

It concluded by advising the UNICEF, human rights activists, and whoever believes in gender equality to voice protest against the White House.

Foreign Ministry Calls For End to Afghan War

LD1211115495 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 12 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Following yesterday's rocket attacks against various areas of Kabul, a spokesman for the Islamic Republic of Iran's foreign ministry expressed regret over the death of a great number of the Muslim and innocent people of Kabul and the vast damages caused to that city and called for an immediate halt to military operations, especially the targeting of the residential areas in Kabul.

Stressing that war and fratricide are to the benefit of none of the involved parties and will not help in resolving the Afghan internal problem, he called for negotiations to begin between the warring groups and for the settlement of differences by peaceful means. He also urged all fighting parties to show restraint and avoid military action.

U.S. Opposition to Iraq Peace Efforts Questioned

LD1211143495 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in English 1130 GMT 12 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The semi-official Anatolia news agency of Turkey reported that the U.S. representative, after talking to Ankaran officials, has arrived in the north of that country to follow up Washington's intervention among Iraqi Kurds.

The visit comes following the failure of the U.S. efforts in the peace meetings between the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan [PUK] and Iraqi Kurdistan's Democratic Party. In the two meetings held in Ireland with the participation of Turkey and Britain, the U.S. tried to press the two parties to accept the peace terms. However, the deep differences of these two guerrilla organizations of Iraqi Kurdistan, as well as the difference of the Patriotic Union of Turkey [as heard], hampered the success of the talks.

Meanwhile, growing interference of the U.S. in the internal affairs of the countries in the Persian Gulf region, including Iraq, has generated concerns of the regional states. Following the end of the Oil War over Kuwait in 1991, the U.S. declared north of Iraq as a safe zone and barred the Iraqi army from entering Iraq's Kurdistan. This act ended the sovereignty of Baghdad in the north of that country; also providing for the presence of aliens in the region.

Using the existing conditions, Washington tries to increase its influence in Iraqi Kurdistan using this region as a pressure leverage against the Iraqi regime. The present situation in northern Iraq and the suspicious efforts of the White House in this region has triggered many concerns over the preservation of the territorial integrity of Iraq. There are, particularly, many suspicions with regard to the current U.S. efforts in Iraqi Kurdistan. The baseless objections of the U.S. Government with the peaceful measures of the Islamic Republic of Iran in the north of Iraq has added to these suspicions. The officials of the White House have expressed dissatisfaction with Tehran's successful intercession between the two Iraqi Kurdish groups.

However, apparently, Iraqi Kurds — considering their adjacence with Iran and the good records they have of Iran in their minds — prefer to settle their differences with the intercession of Iran, which has displayed good will and on which they can rely. Informed observers raise the question as to why the Americans create sabotage in the peaceful efforts of the regional countries if the U.S. really wants peace and security in northern Iraq. Without doubt, the reason lies in the illegitimate interests of Washington in the north of Iraq; an interest which runs counter to the interests of regional nations, including the Kurdish people of Iraq.

Hezbollah Group: Fight Against U.S. To Continue

NC1211194295 Tehran RESALAT in Persian 4 Nov 95 p 1

[FBIS Translated Text] Students of the Ansar-e Hezbollah group have issued a statement on the occasion of 13 Aban [4 November—anniversary of the occupation of the U.S. Embassy] and have emphasized that the fight against the United States will continue.

The statement says: Today we are facing materialistic speculations by those who say that the path to development passes through Washington and that we should start a dialogue with Washington instead of shouting death to America!

The statement adds: We warn that the resurrection of the United States in the cultural context, through the propagation of liberalist culture is a serious danger.

The statement stresses: The academicians are alert so that no one will resort to theories with a scientific facade in a bid to whitewash the United States' face. Today the confrontation of the Hezbollah with the United States has become global.

PRC Delegation Reportedly Arrives in Tehran

LD0811133395 Tehran IRNA in English 1300 GMT 8 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Nov. 8, IRNA — A Chinese delegation headed by the deputy supervision minister Feng Yun Ti met here Wednesday [8 November] with head of Iran's inspectorate general, Hojatoleslam Seyed Ibraim Rai'si.

Rai'si, in this meeting, proposed that countries located in Asia- Pacific region set up a joint commission to fight financial corruption in their respective state-owned organizations.

Feng welcomed the Iranian official's suggestion on setting up such a commission and on exchange of experiences in fighting financial corruption in administrative offices.

The Chinese delegation is currently in Iran at the invitation of the inspectorate general of Iran.

Meanwhile, Feng Yun Ti invited Rai'si to visit China next year.

Velayati Meets With Turkmen Counterpart

LD1011120595 Tehran IRNA in English
1031 GMT 10 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Mashhad (Khorasan), Nov. 9, IRNA — Once the Mashhad-Sarakhs-Tajan railway track is complete, Iran would function as a land bridge for the landlocked countries of Central Asia to the Indian, Pacific and Atlantic oceans, said Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati here today.

He told reporters in this holy city that the prestigious railway project is to go on stream in April 1996.

Of the 295-km long track, which would in fact revive the ancient silk road, 130 kms connecting tajan to the border city of Sarakhs lie in Turkmenistan, while the remaining 165 runs from Saraksh to the holy city of Mashhad. The ancient city of Sarakhs straddles the Iran-Turkmenistan border in the northeastern Iranian province of Khorasan.

Velayati, who was here for talks with his Turkmen counterpart Boris Shikhmuradov, said that boosting the economies of Iran and Turkmenistan, the railway would play an important role in regional and international cooperation.

Velayati and Shikhmuradov on Thursday signed a memorandum of understanding, based on which four political and working groups are to be set up within the framework of an experts committee.

Agreement was also reached in principle between the two sides on executive operations for construction of a dam near the Khatoun bridge.

A separate agreement was reached on providing more facilities for transportation, trade and customs facilities at the the common border markets of 'Bajgiran' and 'Gowdan' on the two countries's frontier.

The two officials also surveyed ways of settling regional issues, including the crises in Tajikistan and Afghanistan, and issues related to the Caspian Sea.

They also held talks with representatives of Tajikistan's opposition parties.

Iran and Turkmenistan have called on the Tajik Government and opposition forces to hold talks, and have announced their readiness to host the next round of negotiations.

Discusses Expansion of Ties

LD1311121095 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian
1030 GMT 13 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] In a telephone conversation today with Mr. Velayati, our country's foreign minister, Mr. Boris Shikhmuradov, Turkmen deputy prime minister [as heard] and foreign minister, discussed the expansion of ties between the two countries and regional cooperation.

The two countries' foreign ministers also discussed the inauguration of the railway linking Mashhad, Sarakhs, and Tajan, as well as the commencement of the implementation work of Sar-e Pol-e Khaton and a border market.

Under a memorandum of understanding signed 9 November by Mr. Velayati and Boris Shikhmuradov in Mashhad, four working groups were formed to plan the inauguration ceremony of the railway linking Mashhad, Sarakhs, and Tanjan. The connection of Iran and Turkmenistan railways via Sarakhs will play a significant role in expanding ties between the Central Asian Republics and Iran and other countries in the world.

Velayati Meets With Minister From Tajikistan

LD1211202995 Tehran IRNA in English
2006 GMT 12 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Nov. 12, IRNA — The Iranian Foreign Minister, 'Ali Akbar Velayati, and the visiting Tajik deputy foreign minister, Zarifov reviewed Irano-Tajikistan political, economic, and cultural relations in addition to the current regional issues and Tajikistan's peace process in a meeting held here on Sunday [12 November].

Zarifov stated that important agreements were reached between the Dushanbe government and tajik opposition groups during Velayati's last visit to Tajikistan and Tajik President Emomali Rakhmanov's visit to Tehran last July.

The deputy foreign minister said his country was eagerly anticipating the fourthcoming visit of the Iranian delegation from Ministry of Construction Jihad to Dushanbe, whose mission was meant to pave the way for the two countries' joint commission.

Zarifov who is here on an official visit, lauded efforts made by Iranian officials for a peaceful end to his country's crisis and called for Iran's continued efforts in the fifth round of the Tajik peace negotiations.

In the meeting, Velayati underlined the need for a just and an honorable urgent solution to the Tajikistan's crisis for the achievement of national unity which would pave the way for reconstructing that country.

Velayati, Kazakh Academician Discuss Relations

LD1311110195 Tehran IRNA in English
1013 GMT 13 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Nov. 13, IRNA — The head of Kazakhstan's Academy of Sciences, Kehjegali Sagadiyev, in a meeting here Sunday [12 November] with Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati, called for the promotion of bilateral scientific and cultural ties between Iran and Kazakhstan.

As the two countries share many things in common in the scientific and cultural areas, Tehran and Almaty are able to enjoy close relations in these fields, Sagadiyev noted.

Referring to various agreements that have been reached by the two sides in the cultural area, he expressed hope that mutual cooperation would further upgrade.

Commenting on the Kazakh people's interest in Persian culture, language and literature, he remarked that culture is a means of creating links between various nations.

Velayati expressed his satisfaction over the promotion of bilateral cultural relations and termed mutual cooperation as fruitful.

Meanwhile, the Kazakh ambassador to Tehran, Myrzatai Joldasbecov, submitted the written message of the Kazakh foreign minister to Velayati.

In the message, the Kazakh minister underscored the need to further promote political, cultural and economic cooperation between the two Muslim states.

Azerbaijan Envoy Says Expansion of Ties Sought

LD1311100495 Tehran IRNA in English
0811 GMT 13 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Nov. 13, IRNA — The Republic of Azerbaijan is willing to accept without any discussion all Iranian conditions for expanding Baku-Tehran ties, announced Azeri Ambassador to Iran Aliyar Safarli.

Speaking to the English-language daily TEHRAN TIMES published Monday [13 November], he said, "As an ambassador to Tehran, I seriously warn those who cannot tolerate such good relations between two neighbors."

Referring to the strengthening of links between the two countries as a necessity, he noted Tehran-Baku ties have roots in the history of the region.

He stated that historical relations between these two countries have proven to be durable and lasting, and has been steadily improving.

The Iranian and Azeri nations have never suffered any conflicts or tensions in the history of their relations and this attests to the close ties existing between the two nations, Safarli added.

Regarding the exchange of visits between Tehran-Baku officials, he said such trips help promote the already good links between the Islamic republic and Azerbaijan.

In reference to a visit made to Tehran by Azeri President Heydar Aliyev, the ambassador noted that "such a trip could be an effective and fruitful step toward consolidating bilateral relations".

He concluded by saying that in case there exists any misunderstanding between the two friendly nations, the visits could help clear the matter up.

Minister Discusses Oil Projects With Cuba

LD1111224095 Tehran IRNA in English
2032 GMT 11 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Nov 11 (IRNA) — Iran's Commerce Minister Yahya ol-Eshaq in Havana Saturday [11 November] discussed Irano-Cuban relations with a number of Cuban ministers, among them the minister of foreign investment and economic cooperation, minister of state, and the minister of sugar industries, of tourism, of foreign affairs as well as the governor of the Central Bank of Cuba.

During these meetings it was also agreed that consultants from Iran and Cuba meet and review the outlook for Iran's involvement in oil projects and prospecting for oil.

The minister said Iran would be willing to organize an exclusive exhibition of Iranian handicrafts.

Envoy: Bonn Misinterpreted Rafsanjani Statement

LD1311214695 Tehran IRNA in English
2123 GNT 13 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Bonn, Nov. 13, IRNA — Iran's ambassador to Bonn, Seyyed-Hoseyn Musavian here Monday [13 November] expressed displeasure with the cancellation of a scheduled visit to Bonn of Iran's Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati.

The ambassador said the German parliament had read a misinterpretation into the statement of the president of Iran, Hojjat ol-Eslam Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani in which he had referred to the killing of Yitzhaq Rabin as having been God's revenge.

Musavian said that the observation by the Iranian president was not an invitation to terrorism, but that the contrary was true.

He said Iran had long since been a victim of terrorism and therefore condemned all forms of terrorism.

In his statement Monday, the Iranian ambassador said that Iran was interested in seeing the Muslim world having close relations with Europe which, he said, was the reason why the Islamic Republic had welcomed the initiative by the German foreign minister.

The Iranian ambassador pointed out that because Germany had never been a colonialist government, Iran believed it could play a leading role for bringing the Muslim world closer to Europe. He said the recent move by the German parliament would not promote that goal.

On Friday, the German parliament ratifying a motion by the social democrats called on the German Government to rescind an invitation to Iran's Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati for participation in a conference on Islam.

In the wake of the cancellation of the invitation to the Iranian foreign minister, the German foreign minister postponed the conference sine die [indefintely].

Bangladeshi Minister Arrives for Economic Meeting

Addresses Inaugural Meeting

BK1211102595 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network in English 0200 GMT 12 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] A three-day meeting of the Bangladesh-Iran Joint Economic Commission [JEC] has got under way in Tehran. Addressing the inaugural meeting of the JEC yesterday, Finance Minister Saifur Rahman underscored the tremendous prospects of further expanding and diversifying the existing bilateral cooperation between the two brotherly countries, particularly in trade and economic fields. He said the objectives of the current session are to review the implementation of the decisions taken at the first session of the JEC held in Dhaka in 1993. It will also review the follow-up action on the memorandum of understanding signed in Dhaka during President Rafsanjani's visit and identifying newer areas of cooperation between the two countries.

The Iranian delegation was led by Minister for Jihad Gholam Reza Foruzesh who said both sides have now better understanding of each other's potential for further intensifying bilateral cooperation. Earlier, Finance Minister Saifur Rahman had an exclusive meeting with the Iranian minister, during which they exchanged views on various matters of bilateral cooperation.

Discusses Bosnia With Velayati

LD1211201895 Tehran IRNA in English 1938 GMT 12 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Nov. 12, IRNA — Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati and the visiting Bangladeshi Minister of Finance Saifur Rahman in a meeting here today reviewed the two countries' economic cooperation as well as the latest development in Balkan particularly in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Referring to President Hojjatoleslam 'Ali Akbar Hashemi- Rafsanjani's visit to Bangladesh last month, Saifur Rahman called the visit as an important historic event in the two countries' relations and described its effects as "par excellent".

The Bangladeshi minister said that his visit to Tehran was in connection with his participation in a Irano-Bangladeshi joint commission and a followup of the agreement reached between Tehran and Dhaka during President Rafsanjani's visit to that country.

He called for establishment of an air link between Tehran and Dhaka which would help further promote bilateral cooperation.

Saifur Rahman stated that the Iranian export of such items as exports of steel, cement, iron, tar, fruit and dry fruit to his country to be very beneficial.

In the meeting, Velayati expressed his satisfaction at the expantion of relations and cooperation between the two countries, particularly after President Rafsanjani's tour to Bangladesh.

Reviewing the latest development in the Balkan region particularly in the Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovin, the two sides also discussed ways for ending bloodshed and ethnic cleasing in Bosnia.

Discusses Oil Issues With Aqazadeh-Kho'i

LD1311210095 Tehran IRIB Television Third Program Network in English 1915 GMT 13 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The visiting Bangladeshi minister of finance and economic affairs met with Iranian Oil Minister Mr. Aqazadeh-Kho'i this evening.

The Bangladeshi official [Finance Minister Mohammad Saifur Rahman], in Tehran to attend to the second Irano-Bangladeshi joint economic commission, declared during the talks his country's interest in purchasing crude oil from Iran, as well as Iran's assistance in building a refinery in Bangladesh.

Mr. Aqazadeh-Kho'i then announced that Iran is ready to have petroleum- related cooperation with Bangladesh.

He said a committee of Iranian and Bangladeshi experts will be held in Dhaka to survey the cost of establishing an oil refinery in Bangladesh.

Meets With Various Officials

BK1311073595 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network in English 0200 GMT 13 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Finance Minister Saifur Rahman, now attending Bangladesh-Iran Joint Economic Commission meeting in Tehran, held meetings yesterday with a number of Iranian ministers, including Foreign Minister Dr. 'Ali Akbar Velayati. During the meeting, Mr. Rahman discussed with Mr. Velayati various steps taken up for implementation of memorandum of understanding which were concluded during President Rafsanjani's visit, particularly those in the energy sector. The finance minister also discussed various issues facing Islamic ummah [community], particularly the latest development in Bosia-Herzegovina.

The finance minister earlier called on Iranian Minister for Road and Transportation Akbar Torkan. They exchanged views on cooperation between the two countries in the road and transportation sector. Mr. Saifur Rahman emphasized the need for immediate establishment of air and shipping links between the two countries to facilitate trade and economic cooperation. Bangladesh would buy 60 railway coaches from Iran, and there are other important proposals for further cooperation in this important sector. Hearing the views of Mr. Rahman, the Iranian transport minister said he would discuss the possibilities of further cooperation between the two countries during his forthcoming visit to Bangladesh. The Iranian minister is expected to visit Dhaka soon.

Meanwhile, the Joint Economic Commission meeting at the official- level is progressing, with ERD [Economic Relations Division] Secretary Lutfullahil Majid leading the Bangladesh official delegation.

Official Comments on Export of Non-Oil Goods

LD0711114995 Tehran IRNA in English 1141 GMT 7 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Bushehr Prov., Nov. 7, IRNA — A total of 217,775 tons of non-oil goods amounting to Rls. 386.46 billion were exported via Bushehr and Genaveh ports in southern Iran during the first half of the current Iranian year (March 21-September 22), said Morteza Hanzekian, a customs official here on Tuesday [7 November].

He reported the amount of exported goods via the ports edged up two times in weight and three times in value when compared to the corresponding period last year.

The main items exported included fruits, fresh vegetables, dates, raisins, cumin, plastic pots, construciotn stones, chemicals, carpets, livestock, shrimp and fish, hanzekian added.

During the same period, some 217,738 tons of commodities valued at Rls. 229.63 billion have been imported and unloaded via these ports.

Bushehr province, with 625 kilometers of joint coastline with the Persian Gulf, is one of Iran's main trade centers.

Oil Companies, Firms To Meet in Tehran

NC1111085795 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0445 GMT 11 Nov 95

[Commentary by the News Research and Commentary Group]

[FBIS Translated Text] Representatives from 123 international oil companies and 20 Iranian industrial companies are to meet today in Tehran and start a competition for examining 10 huge oil and gas projects in Iran and gaining participation rights in these projects.

This is taking place at a time when the Zionist senators in the U.S. Congress have started fresh attempts to extend trade sanctions on Iran. Following their disappointment over the absence of support from their allies, they have called for sanctions on companies which sell the equipment needed by Iranian oil industries—a plan which, according to U.S. officials themselves, is contrary to the regulations of free international trade and will have more unfavorable consequences than the sanctions on Iran had on U.S. companies and the U.S. economy.

The five months of sanctions on Iranian oil by the United States has shown, and something which U.S. officials themselves admit, that the imposition of these sanctions has harmed the U.S. companies more than anyone else. Because, shortly after the sanctions were applied, Iran replaced U.S. companies that purchased Iranian oil with new customers and only a slight change in the distribution of oil in the international market was seen.

Of course, the damages inflicted on the United States have not been suffered only by its oil companies. The fact that U.S. allies failed to comply with the unprincipled and bullying policies of the Clinton administration once again marred the vision of a unipolar world under U.S. leadership and inflicted a heavy blow on the United States' false superpower allegations.

It should be noted that the failure of the oil sanctions on Iran is not only because of the increasing fall of U.S. power. Iran's industrial and economic progress during the recent years, increased self-sufficiency, and the growth of the country's technical and industrial potentials have been the most effective factors in weakening the threats and sanctions by the Clinton administration. The presence of 20 Iranian industrial companies in today's conference, in which Iran's gas and oil projects are to be examined, next to representatives from the world's largest oil companies itself proves this point.

Nevertheless, our final position and full economic independence continue to depend on lesser reliance on oil incomes—an objective that can be achieved only by the increasing growth and expansion of non-oil exports. All existing potentials should be used toward this end.

Aqazadeh-Kho'i Opens Conference

LD1111131695 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 11 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] [Announcer] The Iran oil and gas seminar got under way in Tehran today. Senior officials of our country's oil industry as well as dozens of representatives of Iranian and international companies who want to take part in the projects of the Oil Ministry's second [five-year] plan are taking part in the conference. The conference will go on for three days, during which 11 huge oil and gas projects, which are to be put to international tender during the second five-year plan, will be presented to international oil and investment companies as well as domestic and foreign contractors.

Our correspondent reports on the opening remarks of the oil minister at the conference:

[Correspondent] Opening the conference, Oil Minister Aqazadeh-Kho'i pointed to Iran's oil and gas reserves and production, saying: The projects presented at this conference are some of the key oil and gas projects of our country. And if implemented, they will have a positive impact on the economy of the world and the region. He said: Through the implementation of these projects, we have decided to increase our oil and gas production capacity, especially the sea output of oil and gas, and increase the capacity of our refineries.

He added: Today we are gathered in the presence of oil and investment companies in order to present the benefits of our 11 oil and gas projects. These projects will be based on a buyback model. Within the framework of mutually-acceptable agreements, we will guarantee profits for the companies. In this context, we will consider matching each company's investment and offering acceptable investment returns from each project's output.

The oil minister described the four principles of Iran's policy in the implementation of these projects, and added: In the implementation of developmental projects in the oil and gas sector, the use of foreign investment and know-how, the full use of the country's domestic capabilities, and the transfer of technical know- how have been taken into account. All these projects are justified economically and very attractive. Their implementation will be immune from any political or economic risk, and provisions for the recovery of any expenditure by contractors and the relevant interests will be envisaged in the agreements.

[Announcer] At the first session of the Iranian oil and gas seminar, the deputy oil minister for international affairs said: In this seminar the information required by companies will be put at the disposal of domestic and foreign participants in three sections, including general data concerning agreements, financial and legal information concerning the projects, information on domestic production capabilities, and project technical and financial information.

He said: Of 11 proposed projects five are offshore ones. They comprise a project for the development of the South Pars gas field, a project for the injection of gas into the Dorud oil field, a project for the development of Khaf gas reservoir in the Salman field, a project for the development of the new Belal oil field, as well as a project for the reconstruction of installations and enhancement of the Sorush oil field. Land based projects comprise one for gas condensate refinery in Bandar-e 'Abbas, a project for the Shiraz refinery, a project for the construction of a recovery of gas condensates at Lavan [Island], projects for the construction of gas and liquified natural gas plants in southern Iran as well as a project for the gathering of oil field gases in the south. Those are some of the projects proposed for tender.

According to the same report, an exhibition has been set up on the periphery of the seminar to present the capabilities of the contracting companies, consultant engineers and the Iranian producers of oil and gas equipment.

Commentary: Oil Conference Sign of U.S. 'Defeat'

NC1411080295 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0445 GMT 12 Nov 95

[Commentary by the News Research and Commentary Group]

[FBIS Translated Text] A three-day seminar on Iranian gas and oil projects has ended in Tehran. The seminar, sponsored by the Petroleum Ministry and attended by representatives from 123 international and Iranian oil companies, granted participants an opportunity to become acquainted with 11 major Iranian oil and gas projects.

The most important objective of the seminar on the basis of the Second Five-Year Development Plan was to attract the necessary capital and technology to explore Iran's immense oil and gas resources. Of the 11 projects, seven are for gas and four for oil.

At the seminar participants were briefed on the various legal, economic, and technical aspects of the projects. The participants will inspect the locations of the projects and see the Iranian companies' technical potential on the spot and thus become acquainted with the projects. The interesting point is that these projects largely rely on the exploitation of seabed resources and joint gas and oil resources with neighbors.

Political and economic experts consider the seminar and the extensive and active presence of foreign companies in the development of Iranian oil and gas fields as an overt sign of the United States' defeat in isolating Iran and in imposing all-aspected economic sanctions on the Islamic Republic of Iran. Apparently the White House intends to cooperate with Congress and study the intensifying economic sanctions aimed at decreasing Iran's oil and gas income to increase the pressure on Iran.

What is meant by intensifying economic sanctions actually comes in a bill put forth by a pro-Zionist Republican senator. The bill, inspired by a similar bill against Cuba, stipulates that any international company trading with Iran should be boycotted by the United States by preventing the company's officials from entering the United States and closing the offices of the company in the United States. Of course this bill was mooted earlier. But it had been in abeyance because of its unfavorable consequences for the United States.

Bill Clinton's administration, which has come to be known as the most inefficient U.S. Administration in recent years, is apparently resorting to any illegal method and to threats and terror in a bid to deprive the Iranian nation of the benefits of development and progress. This is at a time when, despite all the measures adopted by Washington, protests against the U.S. hegemonistic policy are increasing. The interesting point is that these protests have come to light in countries and areas that are traditionally among the United States' allies. The opposition of the Japanese people in Okinawa and the explosion at a U.S. center in Saudi Arabia are only two recent examples of these protests.

Daily Interviews Industries Minister Ne'matzadeh

NC1111093195 Tehran ETTELA'AT in Persian 30 Oct 95 p 7

[Interview with Minister of Industries Engineer Mohammad Reza Ne'matzadeh by unidentified correspondent; place and date not given]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [ETTELA'AT] In view of the production- industrial potentials which were recently displayed at the Tehran International Fair, why does the industrial sector have a very small share in the country's exports? What are the obstacles to an active presence by this sector in the world market at a time when Iran is on the same industrial level as other countries like Malaysia, South Korea, and Singapore? Also, industrial exports do not appear to be low. What is the long-term outlook for non-oil exports?

[Ne'matzadeh] [passage omitted] One of the major slogans at the outset of the Islamic Revolution—a slogan which continues to apply—is that we should set aside the single-product export policy and rid ourselves of an oil-based economy. [passage omitted]

If we analyze this slogan a little further, we can see that currently our non-oil exports have risen in comparison to five or six years ago and that oil exports now comprise 70 to 75 percent of the country's total exports.

If we want to create an economy which is not based on oil exports, we should be able to replace the $15 billion in foreign exchange we are now receiving from oil exports, assuming that this figure does not rise.

If we want to reach this goal, we will have to replace three- fourths of the oil exports by industrial products and one-fourth by agricultural products. [passage omitted]

In order to emerge from the current situation, with about $1.5 billion in industrial exports last year, and to reach the $20- billion mark, we should have an annual growth of 30 percent in industrial exports. If we achieve this figure in a period of 10 years, we will have made a great leap.

Therefore, there are two points that we should take into consideration. The first is on whether we believe in slogans or not and if we want to achieve this growth. Of course, I have set a 10- year period to reach the above figure. But there may be some who are more daring and say that we should achieve this objective in a shorter period, in which case we should have an annual growth of more than 30 percent. [passage omitted]

Fortunately, during the past five or six years since the commencement of the First Plan, we have witnessed a good growth rate in industrial exports. However, if we continue at our current pace, we will not be able to achieve the envisaged 30 percent growth easily. [passage omitted]

The interesting point is that at the beginning of the First Plan, our industrial exports were 2 percent [of total exports] and this figure has reached 8 to 9 percent today.

But moving from today's 8 to 9 percent to 80 or 90 percent—that is, ten times the current growth rate—calls for great efforts.

This is a reality which we are facing and something which many officials and people are possibly unfamiliar with. This is why— during the past 15-16 years— in addition to the great problems created by the war and its impact, we have not had the necessary policies and programs for industrial exports and we have not been able to regulate a strategy for the growth of our industrial exports.

The First Plan lacked this strategy, and unfortunately the Second Plan too is void of such a strategy—a strategy which demands national determination in order to leap from 8 percent to 80 percent in a period of 10 years. This is an immense and expansive movement, and the more we waste time, the more difficult it will be for us.

The second point is that moving from $1.5 billion in industrial exports to $20 billion is not a simple task. This is such an immense effort that we should not let even one opportunity slip by and we should embark on a national mobilization.

Within this context, we intend to prepare a strategy with the help of the administrative organs in the current [Iranian] year ending [20 March 1996] and to present it to the Majles in the form of a bill, because we have truly reached the conclusion that if we do not enjoy a firm national determination and a long-term law, we cannot achieve this goal in the best way possible.

[ETTELA'AT] How can the necessary grounds be prepared in the industrial sector in order to reach the 80-percent mark in industrial exports?

[Ne'matzadeh] Fortunately, the necessary grounds for this immense growth have been paved by the industrial sector with investments that have been made and structural reforms that have taken place in the last few years. But all these should continue. Therefore, we do not see a major obstacle in the industrial sector. I think that with the help of national determination, we can implement this important and long-term program and achieve our goal within the next 10 years. [passage omitted]

[ETTELA'AT] Please comment on the comparison between value added industrial exports and raw materials.

[Ne'matzadeh] The share that industrial exports have in the total exports of the country show that the only way to increase exports is to increase industrial exports.

How much more raw material can we export? Our income from our oil exports in the past five or six years not only has not increased, but decreased slightly. Therefore, raw materials do not have any value added significance as such, and since raw material resources are not endless, we cannot export more since we will merely be exhausting our resources sooner. [passage omitted]

[ETTELA'AT] How do you envisage a favorable cultural movement in order to achieve this great objective?

[Ne'matzadeh] I think that the role played by the mass media in this movement is extremely significant. The mass media can work next to those who are in charge of planning ways to achieve this goal in order to create the necessary mentality, both for officials and the public. For example, the mass media can put forth the issue on what can be done to achieve an economy that does not rely on oil exports, how we should advance in our industries, and what should be done in the services and agriculture sectors. [passage omitted]

[ETTELA'AT] What is your opinion on the measures that should be taken in order to achieve a certain level in our industrial production which will help us have an extensive presence in the world market?

[Ne'matzadeh] I have given you a general picture of the country's economy. In order to achieve the necessary growth and the export level which I have referred to, we should first take certain steps.

One of these is that we have sufficient production so that we can also export. Our production should be such as to allow us to meet our domestic needs and then also to have a surplus of products of the quality which is needed by world markets for export.

Our production today is such that we can only meet the minimum of our own needs and, in some cases, we also have to import some items. Out of this production, we export between $1.5-$2 billion annually and no more.

Therefore, if we want our exports to increase, we should first achieve growth above 10 to 15 percent in our industrial production so that we can both meet our domestic needs—taking our population growth into consideration—and also export.

The Second Plan envisages a growth of between 5 to 6 percent for industrial products. This will not allow us to achieve the important strategy I have referred to above. The Second Plan envisages an 8 percent growth for non-oil exports without clarifying the specific shares of each product. However, with this 8 percent growth, we cannot achieve what the esteemed leader has said on freeing our economy from oil.

A new plan should be prepared. We should have a serious program for increasing industrial production. There are two ways in which we can achieve this. The first is to make more use of existing capital as our first objective. Currently the industrial potentials in many fields are not being used 100 percent because certain laws and regulations—such as monetary, foreign exchange, and export- import regulations—keep these potentials from being fully used.

When we say that a "program for exports" should be prepared in the form of a bill, it is because all these regulations should be put to the use of production and exports in the bill so that the path will be opened, and so that if a factory can prepare a good- quality product by using good-quality raw material, it can go ahead and do so. Today some regulations do not allow this to happen. I am not saying that these regulations are preventing this 100 percent. For example, the "temporary imports" regulation is helpful. But there are still some restrictions. Therefore, the restrictions in production should be removed by increasing the existing capabilities, and this is a major objective.

The second objective is that our profits from production should increase. We should try to achieve the maximum production from our capabilities with the minimum of costs. The next important point is the issue of new investments. We need new investments in order to achieve our goal, and contrary to what some of our friends think— that because of the investments that have been made during the past few years, industry today has been saturated and we do not need more investments—in order to implement the important strategy we have in mind. The private and public sectors as well as foreign participation in industries are necessary in order to increase our production. [passage omitted]

Fortunately, the president stated during the inauguration of a production unit that we should do something to direct the people's cash flow toward industrial production.

This effort to attract cash flow needs certain means and policies, without which we can achieve nothing. Naturally, if investors feel that investment in the industrial sector is not paying off, they will turn to another direction. We should try to create more profitability and more trust as far as investment in the industrial sector is concerned.

[ETTELA'AT] What is the industrial sector's need for new investments each year?

[Ne'matzadeh] We have still not calculated this on the basis of the 30 percent annual growth which we have envisaged. But in our discussions on the Second Plan, we have said that we should have a growth rate of between 10 to 12 percent per year in the field of investment in the industrial sector.

What has been envisaged in the Second Plan is an annual growth of 6 percent. However, with the mechanisms that we have in the Second Plan, we will not be able to reach that minimum.

In order to achieve an annual growth of 30 percent in industrial exports and to maintain this growth rate within a period of 10 years, we need more than 10-12 percent growth in investments. But all these call for calculations which should be carried out with the help of the Plan and Budget Organization, the Central Bank, and the ministry of industries.

[ETTELA'AT] Please comment on how we can achieve the successful presence of our industrial products in world markets.

[Ne'matzadeh] We are trying to manufacture high-quality products. But some people believe that the world markets are limited and that if we increase production, we will not be able to export our goods.

I should say that when it comes to the volume of exports which we want to achieve in a period of ten years and the $20-billion income from industrial exports which we hope to get, we believe that we are not facing any particular problems as far as the world market is concerned when we take into consideration the fact that the total volume of world trade is many trillions of dollars.

Our experience of the last four or five years has shown that we started from the zero point in some products and now are selling in the world markets. We have a say now, and despite all the problems—including political problems—we can have a presence in the world's major markets.

But we add that this presence is not a simple issue. Each market has its owner and its special demands. If we have a correct program, I think that we will not have any problems in achieving the 30 percent increase annually. We should only carry out the necessary scientific research. We should have a good information system and set up export promotion centers, and also establish dynamic export offices in many countries.

These things have been done by countries like South Korea, Malaysia, and Singapore, and Japan was the first country to move in this direction. [passage omitted]

[ETTELA'AT] In order to achieve industrial growth, we naturally need powerful management. What steps do you think we should take in order to achieve this?

[Ne'matzadeh] Introducing a specific product in the world market requires technological and technical know-how itself. Not everyone may be successful in this and not everyone may be able to do so. We should definitely increase our selling expertise. [passage omitted]

Fortunately, we have started to move in this direction in a limited way. But I believe that national determination is needed here too, as it is needed in other fields. The universities should be equipped to train skilled manpower in marketing, and our industries should offer the necessary training courses with the help of experienced people. The union of exporters should get together and think of new methods.

The Chamber of Commerce, Industries, and Mines will not succeed if it continues to use its current methods. It should become extremely active and establish good and dynamic working relations and close contacts with other chambers of commerce in the world. All these things can be done. But in order to do them, we need the necessary means which will help us to successfully achieve our ends.

[ETTELA'AT] Please comment on the good quality and standards of products as one of the important factors that are needed for our successful presence in world markets.

[Ne'matzadeh] During the past few years, our industries have shown that although in the past Iranian products were considered to be of low quality in comparison with similar foreign products, today we have been able to rise to international standards and some of our products have received international recognition for their high standards. We have gained foreign buyers' satisfaction and our exports have thus increased. [passage omitted]

Another important point is that we use state of the art machinery and technologies in many of our industrial units—machinery and technologies that can easily compete with their foreign counterparts. [passage omitted]

[ETTELA'AT] There is talk about the issue of financial resources as one of the major obstacles to exports. What is your opinion on this?

[Ne'matzadeh] We need financial resources in order to increase production and to set up new industrial units.

The issue of financial resources is important even as far as increasing the current industrial capacities is concerned. For example, a factory with a 50 percent output needs $2 billion cash circulation which increases to $4 billion if the output is to increase to 100 percent.

Therefore, new financial resources should be injected into the production system. The fact that today some industrial units in the country cannot increase their output, despite the fact that there is a market for their products, is because they do not have the necessary "financial resources" to do so.

Unfortunately, the deflationary policies of the last couple of years have also further weakened the financial status of industrial units. Also, if we want to export more items, we expect all our foreign buyers to first open a bank account for the export products or to prepay for these products before delivery.

This method may be useful in one sector. But in another sector goods must be sent to the market to find buyers and to see how the products will do and then payment is made. This calls for circulating capital. This is why since last year the government approved that between 6-7 percent of banking facilities be allocated to the export sector. But unfortunately this percentage was only 2-3 percent last year instead of the 6 percent that was envisaged, and this year too I think that instead of the 7 percent that has been envisaged, not even 1 percent will be allocated. This is a source of regret. We can see all this in the reports that have been recently published on the Central Bank's activities. Exports need circulating capitals without which we cannot achieve the 30 percent increase per year that we have envisaged.

[ETTELA'AT] How can we ensure financial resources and the circulation of capital?

[Ne'matzadeh] Financial resources are divided into two parts— domestic and foreign. We should rely on domestic resources as much as possible. But domestic resources, like assets, are in the hands of the public. The assets of the state are limited and this is because of a limited income and various expenditures. Oil income cannot be given to industries instead of to education

I will continue the discussion on industrial exports and ways to rid ourselves of our dependence on oil, and I call on all those who are interested in this topic—scholars and experts—to reflect their views, either in ETTELA'AT or by writing to the ministry of industries, and to help us. I think that the topic of expanding industrial exports should be categorized as a strategic and national topic so that, God willing, our efforts toward this end will benefit the country.

Pakistan

Leghari Said Satisfied With Commonwealth Summit

BK1311163495 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1600 GMT 13 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] President Farooq Ahmad Khan Leghari has expressed satisfaction at the outcome of the Commonwealth Summit, saying Pakistan fully supports the conference's decision to take actions against countries having non-democratic governments. Briefing newsmen aboard a plane from Auckland to Darwin in Australia today, he hoped the action plan will promote democracy in the Commonwealth countries. The president said punitive action will be taken against countries where there is military takeover. Such countries will be condemned and removed from the organization.

The president said during individual meetings with Commonwealth leaders, he told them that peace and prosperity can only be ensured in South Asia when the Kashmir dispute is resolved.

Radio Pakistan's special representative Syed Nazir Bukhari reports that Commonwealth provided Pakistan a forum to express its viewpoint on all issues.

One of the engines of the special plane of President Farooq Ahmad Khan Leghari developed a technical fault a few minutes after it took off while on route to Pakistan from New Zealand. The plane landed safely at Darwin airport in Australia. The president and his entourage will have a night's stay in Darwin and will leave for home tomorrow.

Statement Welcomes Outcome of Commonwealth Summit

BK1311162995 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 13 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Pakistan has described as very positive the outcome of the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting in Auckland. A statement issued by the Pakistan Foreign Office at the end of the conference says that Pakistan actively participated in the deliberations and was among the select group of eight countries that prepared a draft of special declaration on disarmament adopted by the conference. The statement says a comprehensive nuclear test ban treaty will be a major step toward strengthening nuclear nonproliferation regime. The statement also welcomes the proposal for establishing nuclear free zones.

The statement says Pakistan fully supports the Commonwealth's fundamental political values of democracy, supremacy of law and good governance, which were also outlined in Harare Commonwealth declaration of 1991. The statement says Pakistan supports the efforts of the Commonwealth to promote goods governments in all member nations of the organization and it expects an action plan in this connection will contribute toward strengthening democracy in member nations. The plan should also focus attention on sustainable development in member nations of Commonwealth.

The statement adds that during President Farooq Ahmad Khan Leghari's meetings discussed with heads of government of Commonwealth states, the Kashmir issue, regional and international situation, and bilateral relations.

Japan Reportedly Concerned Over Defense Budget

BK0211120095 Islamabad THE NEWS in English 2 Nov 95 p 1

[Report by Mariana Baaber and Ikram Hoti]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Japanese economic delegation currently in Islamabad to discuss the $500 million soft loan has expressed its concern about the size of Pakistan's military budget and increase in its external debts.

According to sources at the Prime Minister's Secretariat, the head of the Japanese delegation told Secretary Economics Affairs division Aftab Ahmed Khan that Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto should be informed about the concern of the Japanese government.

The delegation had two meetings with officials at the Economic Affairs division on Tuesday [31 October] and Wednesday. It brought up the issue of the size of Pakistan's military budget. It advised Pakistan to either curtail it or keep it at its present level. The delegation wanted an assurance from their Pakistani counterparts.

The debt servicing was another area of concern for the Japanese who felt that Pakistan would be unable to repay the Japanese loans if the present state of affairs here continues.

The sources say that the Secretary Economic Affairs division explained Pakistan's need to maintain a high military budget. Citing security concerns and relying on weapons only for defensive purposes, Kahn told the Japanese that the continuing Indian build-up compelled Pakistan to safeguard its borders.

Pakistan also presented projects to be completed with the Japanese loan of $500. The delegation then short-listed the projects it felt should be carried out on priority basis.

In the past the Japanese government has linked monetary aid to Pakistan's nuclear policy following US policy. They had sought assurances that Pakistan was not developing nuclear weapons.

Fauto Mota, senior assistant for Economic Cooperation Bureau, Japanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs, told a press briefing at the Japanese Embassy Wednesday that his country has expressed concern over the delay in implementation of the projects assisted by it in Pakistan.

He said the 31st Yen Loan Package was the focus of his delegation's talks here. He said though the progress towards introducing agricultural income tax was not encouraging, "the Pakistan Government is taking serious steps in this regard."

he told a questioner that though Japan's policy in its overseas development aid did not depend on decisions taken by international financial agencies and organisations, "our policies cannot be made in isolation or in disregard of these."

He said Japan was against giving aid to countries engaged in military build-up. He said it was encouraging that Pakistan was trying to reduce its military expenditure vis-a-vis its growth rate of GDP.

Officers Reportedly Hold Talks With PRC General

BK1411084195 Islamabad THE NEWS in English
14 Nov 95 p 10

[FBIS Transcribed Text] RAWALPINDI — Lt Gen Zhou Youlian Deputy Director of the General Logistic Department of the People's Liberation Army of China, visited General Headquarters and called on Gen Abdul Waheed, Chief of the Army Staff, in his office here Monday [13 November] morning.

The visiting Chinese general remained with Gen Abdul Waheed for sometime and exchanged views on traditional professional cooperation between the armies of two brotherly countries. The Chinese ambassador in Pakistan and Lt Gen Muhammad Nasir Akhtar, Quarter Master General of Pakistan Army, were also present on the occasion.

Earlier, Lt Gen Zhou, who is heading a six-member delegation, met Lt Gen Muhammad Nasir Akhtar in his office after a formal call on, the Chinese guests were conducted to a detailed briefing on the prevailing logistic system in Pakistan Army.

The delegation leader later drove to the joint Staff Headquarters where he met Lt Gen Muhammad Akram Khan, Director General Joint Staff. They remained together for some time and discussed professional cooperation between the armed forces of China and Pakistan.

The delegation wrapped up their day-long programme with a visit to the Air Headquarters in Chaklala.

After a formal meeting with Air Vice Marshal Mohammad Afzal, Deputy Chief of Air Staff (engineering), the guests were given a threadbare briefing on the working of the logistic department of Pakistan Air Force. On arrival at Islamabad airport, the Chinese delegation was warmly received by Maj Gen Hanif Minhas, Director General Remount Veterinary and Farms Corps and other senior army officers. During its week-long stay in Pakistan, the Chinese delegation will visit NLC [National Logistics Cell] Headquarters, Heavy Industries Taxila, Ordance Factories Wah, Lahore, Sargodha and Murree.

Afghan Minister Reportedly Offers 'Olive Branch'

BK0211025595 Islamabad THE NEWS in English
1 Nov 95 pp 1, 4

[Report by Azim M. Mian in New York]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] New York — Besieged by powerful armed political rivals, Prof Rabbani's Foreign Minister Dr Najibollah Lafra'i has offered an olive branch to Pakistan but with pre-condition; it should stop what he called "interference in Afghan affairs."

He also threatened to explore ways to pressure Pakistan including taking the matter before UNO. He denied his anti-Pakistan speech at the commemorative special session of the UN as encouraged and sponsored by India.

Najib also supported Kashmir struggle and categorically demanded a resolution according to the wishes of its people. He also endorsed an urgent need for a friendly Pak-Afghan relations and blamed Pakistani Foreign Minister Asif Ali for making a mess by not responding to the conciliatory Afghan gestures.

In his interview with "The News", Afghan foreign minister said "we sincerely wish to have very close and brotherly relations with Pakistan. We have told it many times to Pakistani officials who visited Kabul or when we met them in Islamabad.

"The Afghan minister alleged that Pakistani officials had not responded to Afghan call for brotherly relations.

When asked what had gone wrong between Afghanistan and Pakistan though the latter stood behind Afghan struggle against Russian invasion and had made great sacrifices for people of Afghanistan, the minister recognised and thanked Pakistan's support and role in Afghan struggle. He said, when Asif Ali came to Kabul, he got the same message at the foreign ministry about Afghanistan's desire to have close and brotherly relations with Pakistan and when he met Ahmad Shah Mas'ud and Prof Rabbani, the same message was repeated. We even suggested the formation of a commission to remove misunderstanding. He agreed and okayed the idea of a commission to deal with all aspects of our relationship. Since then, we have been waiting for its formation.

When asked if he had any proof that Pakistan was actually supporting Taleban or was it Rabbani government which was engaged in airing Indian propaganda, the Afghan foreign minister asserted "I think there is no doubt whatsoever. There is circumstantial evidence and there is material evidence that Pakistan is interfering.

Politicising the issue, he drew a distinction between the people of Pakistan and its government and said, "we do not say Pakistan as a nation but certain departments of the government are definitely supporting the Taleban." "Those who are destroying relations between the two countries should realise it is in the interest of the two countries to have relations based on mutual respect, equality and non-interference in each others affairs.". Asked about reports that its government was thinking of going before the security council to complain against Pakistan, who has supported Afghan struggle in crucial times when India was supporting Russia, the minister adopted a defensive attitude and said, we hope matters get improved rather than worse. We hope that the interference is stopped as soon as possible.

About a friendlier policy towards India, the Afghan foreign minister said his government had signed many agreements with India. He was asked why his government was signing agreements with India which affect Pakistan's interests, Dr. Lafra'i replied, "when Asif Ali was in Kabul, I told him and also to others there are some Indian technicians at Bagram. About signing of contracts with India, he strongly denied and said it is just propaganda."

About his government's policy towards Kashmir struggle against Indian occupation, he replied, we support the Muslim cause all over the world and we do not want to associate the question of Kashmiri with Pakistan or India or our relations with any particular country. We believe Kashmir issue should be resolved as soon as possible, in accordance with the wishes of the Kashmiri people. The minister was also critical of Indian atrocities in occupied Kashmir.

About any possible efforts to initiate dialogue with other political parties in Afghanistan, Lafra'i stressed that Rabbani wanted to start dialogue with others and bring Afghan unity to stop bloodshed." In March 1995, situation in Afghanistan had improved dramatically. But unfortunately, certain circles inflamed the fire again. We have kept the doors of dialogue open for all.

About the return of Afghan refugees from Pakistan, he said, they are our people. Their home is Afghanistan and they should be in Afghanistan; but every one should not be forced to return."

About the burden on Pakistan's economy due to these Afghan refugees, the minister lauded Pakistan's heroic role during Afghan war and regarded its contribution to be written in golden words. It is very admirable that Pakistan braved all threats and did not show any negative reaction towards Afghan refugees.

Asked how the current hostility between Afghan and Pakistan can be removed, the minister remarked, "tell your politicians and intelligence services not to destroy relations between the two Muslim nations. Surely, people of Pakistan are against such tactics".

In conclusion, the minister reiterated his government's willingness to hold dialogue with Pakistan, if interference is ceased.

Rabbani Government Said Blamed for Bomb Explosions

BK0411142695 Islamabad THE NEWS in English 4 Nov 95 p 12

[Report by Rahimullah Yusufzai]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Peshawar — Both Federal Interior Minister Naseerullah Babar and Inspector General of Police (IGP), NWFP [North-west Frontier Province] Syed Masud Shah, have alleged that the Rabbani government was behind the recent bomb explosions in Peshawar.

It couldn't be anybody else. Who else but Kabul would do such a thing?" maintained Babar while answering reporters' questions in Peshawar Friday [3 November]. He explained that there is a pattern to the acts of terrorism being committed in Pakistan, especially in NWFP. He said a wave of terrorism was also witnessed in early 1960s, 1980s and now in 1995. He argued that India has no love lost for Pakistan and was now hobnobbing with the Rabbani government to create problems for Islamabad.

In reply to a question, Babar said no new measures were being contemplated to restrict the movement of Afghan refugees in a bid to check terrorist activities. He said the official crossing-point on the Pak-Afghan border at Torkham had been closed last year to stop the unhindered flow of Afghan refugees into Pakistan but it warsh't possible to put a complete halt to it or force the refugees living here to return to their homeland.

He added that Pakistan was trying to create conditions conducive for the return of the refugees to Afghanistan by contributing to the rebuilding of their country. In this context, he pointed to the opening of a branch of Utility Stores Corporation of Pakistan in Jalalabad to sell goods at cheaper rates and the restoration of the telephone facility in the Taleban-controlled cities of Kandahar, Herat and Ghazni and Rasheed Dostum-held city of Mazar-i-Sharif. Meanwhile, the Frontier Police chief Syed Mas'ud Shah told The News in an interview that only the Rabbani government could have a motive in sponsoring acts of subversion in Pakistan.

"Despite Pakistan's persistent denials, Kabul is still blaming us for its military setbacks. None else but Kabul has a motive to get even with us," he added.

Shah explained that the bombs used in the four recent blasts in Peshawar were Russian-made. He said those sponsoring these terrorist acts were trying to test Pakistan by starting off at a smaller scale. He said a similar wave of terrorism was unleashed in 1980-87 when key points like government installations were targetted initially and later soft targets like bus stands, cinema houses, restaurants, etc bombed.

He thought failure to nab the terrorists involved in the first phase of bombings would have encouraged the sponsors to go for the soft targets. However, he said the police was able to arrest the accused, Hameed, in the very first act of terrorism in the Telegraph Office in Peshawar. He said the cop on duty nabbed Hameed, a Persian-speaking Afghan refugee, when the time-bomb exploded before he could plant it and severely injured his hands.

The IGP NWFP said Hameed's interrogation would provide the police some useful information to apprehend the other terrorists sent by Kabul. He said alertness of the cops and intelligence work done by them had enabled the Frontier Police to pre-empt the terrorists. We have upgraded our security. My cops are vigilant and are keeping an eye on incoming and outgoing Afghan refugees even though it is very difficult owing to their huge numbers and their integration with the local population," he informed.

French Defense Equipment Deemed Too Expensive

BK0311030495 Islamabad THE NEWS in English 2 Nov 95 pp 1, 9

[Report by Shakil Shaikh]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] ISLAMABAD — Pakistan and France Wednesday [1 November] stressed on need to densify their bilateral relations in defence cooperation, with Islamabad showing its interest to go further, but Paris should take into account the high cost of French equipment.

Though the formal rounds of armament collaboration talks between Pakistan and France ended with a review of all aspects of several items of defence equipment, one of the working groups comprising technocrats of both the sides will continue to hold talk on Thursday - an extended day of two days country-to-country level talks.

The two sides discussed threadbare about three dozen items and preliminary reports of the three working groups, when the Pak-French Joint Committee on Armament Collaboration (PFJCAC) met here for the second consecutive day.

"The forum provides a good opportunity to find ways and means to thrash out issues and discuss matters of defence cooperation," said official sources, who added that Mirage 2000-5 had come under discussion in the working group for Air Force items purely for technical considerations.

As Mirage 2000-5 is not a tested aircraft and its cost is too exorbitant if a whole range of modern equipment is asked to be installed on the aircraft, Pakistan, said official sources, has asked the French officials and the technical team of Dassault that they should revise their earlier offer and come up with a best package along with "credit line." Maintaining this, official sources say that political clearance by President Chirac to put Mirage 2000-5 on sale to Pakistan does not amount to finalisation of the deal. "We are short of funds, but we want to have more modern fighter-bombers with best available option depending on the financial package," said official sources, who dubbed some misinformed as members of the "vicious wheeler-dealers" who are out to sacrifice the national interest for their petty commission. They are referring to France's inability to arrange "soft loan" for Pakistan in the Mirage 2000-G deal, because of European Community's decision stressing on disarmament.

Given the hefty cost of Mirage 2000-5, some circles say that the Air Headquarters have discarded the Chinese option prematurely and are giving a false impression that the Russians are not ready to sell their aircraft to Pakistan. In fact they added, the Defence Committee of Cabinet approved only $ 1.5 billion as a ceiling for the defence services for three years (including 1994-95) According to the sources, the defence services apart from their usual import programmes, have asked for $4.5 billion for fighter aircraft, submarines and tanks for three years.

The DCC in 1994 accorded approval for this amount based on availability of credits (suppliers or otherwise). The submarines deal was through last year for $943 million, with 45 percent credit. By all fairness to defence sector, said the sources, Pakistan is unable to procure several dozen squadrons of Mirage 2000-5 within these constrains unless: Firstly, the priorities are reexamined; the joint staff Headquarters decides the basis on which the services would share the annual allocations for the remaining two of the three years; or arrange soft loans for the deals.

Since the French government has shown its inability to provide a soft loan, Dassault should come up with a feasible financial package or in the other case the Joint Staff Headquarters should re-examine the matter with a blend of different systems procurement which would provide an optimal defence capability and estimated financial expenditure, "said the sources.

It is this backdrop that some circles are showing their total surprise over the AHQ's decision to pin hopes on Mirage 2000-5 only and giving up other options for the time being.

"We expect that the Mirage negotiations, considering the present financial position, will linger on for several months or the Dassault should work out an acceptable financial package for Pakistan, depending on what kind of weapon systems the PAF chooses," believed the sources.

Mirage 2000-5 is considered the costliest fighter-bomber in the category of lightweight aircraft. Its fly-away-price, without weapon systems will be $35 million, while the cost of each of JAS 39 Gripen and F-16C Block 5C is $20 million, F-16ES ($25 million) MiG-29SE ($ 23 million), and MiG-29M ($ 25 million): Even the heavy fighter-bomber like Su-30MK is cheaper then the Mirage 2000-5.

If Pakistan opts to take commercial loans or credit with high interest rates, the nation will suffer in the future as the national economy is unlikely to improve within couple of years next, with fast-depleting foreign exchange reserves, said some experts who are watching the government on the Mirage 2000-5 deal.

In a related development, the head of the French delegation General Engineer Daniel Berthault has called on Secretary Defense Slim Abbas Jilani, another official on extension, Air Chief Air Chier Marshal Abbas Khattak, Chief of General Staff Lt. Gen. Jehngir Karamat and some others in the Naval and Air Headquarters.

During these meetings, the French delegation discussed broad-based matters of cooperation in the defence Sector.

Daily Reports on French Deal for Naval Equipment

BK1311103995 Islamabad PAKISTAN in Urdu 13 Nov 95 p 6

[Unattributed report]

[FBIS Translated Text] An agreement has been signed for the purchase of a fire control system from France to upgrade the Pakistan Navy's type 21 frigates. According to details, Pakistan has reached an agreement with a French company, C.S. Defence, for the purchase of a combat system integrated option to upgrade the artillery of its Navy's type 21 frigates. This system facilitates hitting the target more accurately. France will provide this system to Pakistan at the cost of Rs [rupee] 250 million. The National Institute of Electronics is working on a computer controlled fire system for Pakistan Army's artillery but it has been delayed for administrative reasons.

Four Cooperation Agreements Said Signed With UAE

BK0511152095 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1300 GMT 5 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pakistan and the United Arab Emirates have signed four agreements in various fields to provide an institutionalized framework for expansion of mutually beneficial relations. Foreign Minister Sardar Asif Ahmad Ali and the visiting minister of state of the Emirate, Shaykh Hamadan Bin-Zayid Al Nuhayyan, signed the agreements in Islamabad this agreement at the conclusion of the seventh meeting of UAE [United Arab Emirates]- Pakistan Joint Ministerial Commission. The agreements aim at promotion of cultural cooperation, bilateral trade, and protection of investment on reciprocal basis.

Sardar Asif Ahmad Ali described the signing as a landmark in brotherly relations between the two countries. He said these agreements will lay the basis for expanded economic and trade ties and promote investment and joint ventures in both public and private sectors. Shaykh Hamadan expressed satisfaction over the deliberations held in various fields during his stay in Islamabad. The two delegations also signed agreed minutes on expansion of cooperation in other areas, including manpower, agriculture, communications, counselor, and security matters.

Bhutto Says Ready To Hold Talks With Opposition

BK2910090895 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Overseas Service in English 0800 GMT 29 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto has again expressed her government's readiness to discuss the question of formation of national government with the opposition. Talking to newsmen at Parliament House in Islamabad this morning after the presidential address, she said her doors are open for the opposition to enter into a dialogue with the government.

About the government-Altaf Group talks, she said the law minister is trying to resume this dialogue and she was confident that it would restart. She regretted that life, education, and economy of the people of Karachi is being ruined through terrorism. Asked about the opposition's walkout from the joint session of parliament, the prime minister termed it as unfortunate but hoped the opposition would show a better attitude next year.

Article on Rejection of Idea of National Government

BK0711100295 Islamabad THE NATION in English 7 Nov 95 p 1, 15

[Article by Khalid Qayum]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Islamabad — Leader of the Opposition Nawaz Sharif on Monday [13 November] rejected the idea of national government, but offered to evolve national consensus.

"Nation today needs national consensus and not a national government as this would not solve the problems of the people. I am happy to evolve a national consensus", he told reporters who wanted his reaction on the arrest of his brother Shahbaz Sharif.

Nawaz believed that his nine-point constitutional package of reforms could be the starting point leading to a national consensus. The constitutional reform package was not the last word. The government could add points to it and summon the National Assembly immediately after the ongoing session. National Assembly was the "best forum" for this purpose, he pointed out.

There would be new rules of the game after the Constitution is given a new shape. The constitutional reforms would immediately be followed by mid-term polls. Early elections is an important ingredient. PPP [Pakistan People's Party] has already claimed in its election manifesto to reduce the government tenure to four years. They should sacrifice, like we did, and hold early elections, Nawaz said.

When asked if he was confident that the government would also show the same spirit for reaching a national consensus, he said: "They would if they have any commitment to the country." He said Benazir's past attitude towards the opposition had been like rubbing salt into our wounds. "I am prepared to let go my feelings and emotions and take up the primary issues faced by this country," he added. He said the government must realise that the opposition also had a mandate which should he respected. "The only difference is that they are in the government and we are in the opposition, but that should not mean they were superior to us" he added.

"We would have reached national consensus if I was allowed to speak before the Presidential address to the joint session", the president of PML(N) [Pakistan Muslim League] added. When pointed that only a week ago he had announced opposition's agitation movement against the government, he said that was to force the government to withdraw the 'killer budget'. "I would stand with the people if the government failed to redress their problems" he added.

Regarding the question if there was any possibility of a national unity government he said "This has been reported in the newspaper. I read it after my meeting with U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Robin Raphael. I was surprised of the things that were reported which were never discussed in our meeting."

Nawaz Sharif dismissed the Impression, declaring it "Ghatia" (vile), that the return of Shahbaz Sharif was as a result of some deal between the government and the opposition. "We are not the conventional politicians. We do not make behind the curtain compromises. Shahbaz Sharif feels even stronger on these lines" he said.

Nawaz Sharif challenged that the cases against Shahbaz Sharif were not true. He has been booked under false charges as there is no complainant against him. The complainant is FIA [Federal Investigation Agency] and the complainant itself was the investigation party, he added. He said he was brought to the courts for remand like thieves. "Government does not have the guts to face people. The way Shahbaz was arrested it appeared as if he was a terrorist or a hijacker" he said.

Article Addresses Recent Army Officers' Arrests

BK1411012895 Karachi TAKBEER in Urdu 2 Nov 95 p 25

[Article by unidentified special correspondent: "The Beginning of a Cold War Between the Intelligence Bureau and the Military Agencies"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Now it is being said openly that the arrest of Pakistan Army Major General Zahirul Islam Abbasi, Brigadier Mustanasar, and dozens of other officers on charges of illegally bringing in arms and plotting a rebellion against the government at the beginning of October was masterminded by the Intelligence Bureau [IB], which wanted to use this drama to create a "congenial" atmosphere in the United States prior to Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto's visit to that country. There is no doubt that the IB succeeded in staging this drama, but the Army had to pay a price for it. The Army is now facing the risk of losing several dozens of its worthy officers who are in detention on charges of violating discipline, if not hatching a rebellion; their minimum punishment could be dismissal from the Army.

The silence of official sources over this incident and the disclosure of this news by Tariq Chaudhary, a person known for his friendship with the Army, were in themselves meaningful. It seems that the government deliberately wanted to hold back the news until it had completed action against all the Islam-loving officers on hypothetical rebellion charges before the story became known to the general public. It is said that the Army's Interservice Public Relations [ISPR] department had prepared a brief press release on the evening of 26 September about the arrest of the military officers. The gist of the press release was that "several army officers have been taken into custody in the wake of the seizure of an arms cache in Attock. They are being interrogated to ascertain whether they had anything to do with this arms cache."

The press release was not circulated upon the advice of the prime minister, who wanted to deal with this issue according to her own discretion. A few days later, after Chaudhary's news conference in Rawalpindi, the ISPR again prepared a press release, identical to the previous one; however, that release was also not allowed to be disseminated upon orders from the Prime Minister's Secretariat. The development of events later proved that, by keeping the Army's silent, the prime minister had intended to take credit for the arrest of the "fundamentalist" military officers herself in order to earn Washington's admiration and favor. The Army, after all, afforded this opportunity to her.

Informed people know that, even though the military top brass knew who was providing individual assistance to the Kashmiri mojahedin, they chose to ignore it. The manner in which the IB has tried, however, to corner the military top brass by using the army officers' arrest to the advantage of the Benazir government could lead to a cold war between the IB and the military intelligence agencies. It is said that the government was specifically concerned about the growing influence of several religious groups in the Army, such as the Tablighi Jamaat, Jamaat-i-Islami, and the Koran teaching circles led by Maulana Akram Awan and Major Amin Minhas. The government was looking for an incident that it could use as a cover to apprehend the army officers influenced by these groups or to at least stop the expansion of these circles.

Among all these groups, the Tablighi Jamaat wields the greatest influence in the Army but, according to certain sources, the fraternity has now split into two, and the group opposing the Raiwind school of thought has set up its center in Taxila. This new school is led by a venerable person named Sufi Iqbal, who criticizes the Raiwind school for: preaching holy war against one's self instead of jihad by the sword; not praying for the success of the Muslims of Kashmir, Afghanistan, and Bosnia; and eliminating the obligation to recite special verses in praise of the Prophet Muhammad from the procedure set for the propagation of Islam.

The Raiwind school, on the other hand, complains that praying for the success of the Kashmiri mojahedin brings difficulties for them in India. [sentence as published] Meanwhile, Sufi Iqbal is also being examined by the authorities. Gen. Ghulam Mohammad Malik, the former chief of the 10th Corps who retired recently, Maj. Gen. Zahirul Islam, and Brigadier Mustanasar were associated with the Taxila center of his faction of the Tablighi Jamaat. Everyone interrogated thus far, however, has admitted that Gen. Ghulam Mohammad Malik had no knowledge of Sufi Iqbal's activities, but he is under investigation because the majority of the arrested officers were his close friends.

Reports about Gen. Nasir's arrest have already been denied. Gen. Nasir is associated with the Raiwind center; therefore, he had nothing to do with the Taxila center or the persons associated with it. Nevertheless, soon after the arrest of the officers, Jamaat-i- Islami Chief Qazi Hussain Ahmad met President Leghari. It is said that the president had given him certain assurances during the meeting, and that is why Qazi Hussain Ahmad has become silent on this issue. Anyway, no officer following Jamaat-i-Islami's ideology was found to be involved in the incident, except for Colonel Hamid, who was associated with Maulana Akram Awan of Chakwal in connection with the preparation of the blueprint and the syllabus of a university.

In the meantime, several quarters have expressed the fear that, in the wake of this incident, the Religious Directorate of the Army may be abolished.

Minister Details Army Officers' Plan for 'Coup'

BK1411082195 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Overseas Service in English 0800 GMT 14 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The defense minister, Mr. Aftab Shab Mirani, has said that a small group of army officers along with a few civilian accomplices had planned a coup to eliminate the current military leadership as well as the president and the prime minister in September last. In a statement in the Senate which began its 62d session today, the defense minister narrated the whole event. He said the conspirators involved in the central plot included a major general, a brigadier, three colonels, and about six or seven other officers and some civilians who had the knowledge of the coup plan and were included in the inquiry. He said those found not involved have already been released. He said the investigations have proved that the conspiracy has nothing to do with the Kashmir freedom struggle. Evidence so far gathered does not suggest that this conspiracy is connected with any religious or political party. The defense minister said besides finding weapons and equipment from the conspirators, substantial evidence to overthrow the government had been recovered, including hand-written planning, notes, manifesto of a new constitution, outline of a new political system.

On a point of order raised by Syed Iqbal Haider about the accident to the aircraft carrying the president on way back from the Commonwealth summit, the defense minister said after takeoff from Darwin, the aircraft flew for about five minutes when one of the engines started fuel leaking and emitting smoke and subsequently there was an explosion as something went wrong with the engine. He said the captain went to president, but Mr. Farooq Ahmad Khan Leghari and his wife were offering prayers. Then the captain brought back the aircraft to Darwin. He said the plane landed safely at the airport. Defense minister thanked the Australian Government for making all the necessary arrangements. He said the authorities put foam on the burning engine and all the passengers came out safely. Timely action by the Australian authorities saved the aircraft from burning. A Pakistan International Airlines airbus has been sent to Darwin to bring back President Farooq Ahmad Leghari and his entourage after attending the Commonwealth summit.

Sri Lanka

President Chandrika Directs Northern Relief Efforts

BK0711134995 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 0833 GMT 7 Nov 95

["Pool Item"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Colombo, 7 Nov (LANKAPUVATH)—President Chandrika Kumaratunga Sunday [5 November] presided over a meeting attended by the foreign minister, Lakshman Kadirgamar, government ministries, and departments participating in relief operations in the north and directed that all available resources be used to ensure that the displaced people in the north be provided with food, medicine, and shelter. She emphasized that the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] was largely responsible for having created this situation for those who have been rendered homeless.

A press release issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs states she directed Mr. S.M.J. Senaratne, additional secretary [in the] Ministry of Ethnic Affairs and National Integration and secretary of the presidential civil affairs task force in the north, to act as the coordinator and focal point for the urgent relief efforts being undertaken in the uncleared areas as well. She also directed M.N. Junaid, secretary [in the] Ministry of Rehabilitation and Dr. Reggie Perera, director general [of] health services to make available immediately not only the provisions and materials needed but also to ensure that these are shipped to the north, to set up a coordination point in Point Pedro and to ensure the proper distribution of these materials. The president directed Chandananda de Silva, secretary- defense, to ensure that the security forces cooperated fully in this operation.

The president also requested the foreign minister to immediately contact the ICRC [International Committee of the Red Cross] and to request them to assist in the distribution of essential items and also to ensure that the supplies reached the needy. She directed that foreign governments and NGO's [Nongovernmental Organizations] be informed that any assistance they could offer would be welcome and should be handed over to the commissioner general for essential services to be sent to the north.

Later, Foreign Minister Kadirgamar met the head of the ICRC delegation in Sri Lanka, Gerard Peytrigne, and informed him of the modalities the government of Sri Lanka had decided on concerning the provision of relief supplies to the north, including the stationing of government officials in Point Pedro to be in charge of the relief supplies to the uncleared areas. The minister sought the assistance of the ICRC in the distribution of these supplies in the uncleared areas along with the assistant government agents and other public servants already operating in the north. Mr. Peytrigne thanked the Sri Lanka Government for the confidence it had placed in the ICRC and assured the minister that they would be glad to help in this effort.

On Sunday evening, the foreign minister addressed heads of diplomatic missions resident in Sri Lanka. Reminding them of the consistent efforts of successive Sri Lanka governments to ensure the continuous supply of food and other essential items as medicine to the north with the full knowledge that a large portion of its was used by the LTTE, the minister assured them that the government was fully committed to the continuance of this process.

He assured that the government had adequate stocks of food and medicine and was confident that it could continue to conduct this operation by itself with such help as it might choose to ask for and receive. He said the Sri Lanka Government did not need to be reminded by anybody as to where its obligations lay and took strong exception to such attempts.

The minister said any governments or international agencies which would like to contribute to this effort were welcome to do so but on the strict condition that all such material will be cancelled through the Sri Lanka government. No agencies or NGO's will be permitted to conduct independent operations at their will in the north, beyond the level of their present activities.

Foreign Minister Kadirgamar also held a press briefing later in the night to inform the press corps, including over 50 visiting foreign correspondents, of the measures taken by government to deal with the situation in the north.

Editorial Marks President's First Year in Office

BK1311052295 Colombo DAILY NEWS in English 11 Nov 95

[Editorial: "The first year" — received via Internet]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] In the days when our governments ran only five-year terms Mr. J.R. Jayewardene once said that five-year terms were not enough to implement election promises. Once in office the first two years, he said, are spent in celebrating the victory. In the third they get down to some work. And the last two years are spent preparing the way for the next election. So when he came up with that famous remark about rolling up the electoral map of Sri Lanka for the next ten years he was only trying out one of his political dreams. In contrast to what the first elected president of Sri Lanka has said and done, in the short period of an year which falls on November 12 a few memorable achievements have been made by President Chandrika Bandaranaike Kumaratunga in her first year of office. As admitted by Mr. Jayewardene things of any great magnitude cannot be performed in the first year of office. In certain aspects however the impossible appears to have been done by President Kumaratunga. She has changed the climate of opinion that prevailed in the West over Sri Lanka and restored her image.

Just before she assumed office Sri Lanka was known as an authoritarian state where human rights violations were rife. But now she enjoys the reputation of a functional democracy where the rule of law prevails. There is little doubt that the sweeping, multi-faceted reforms which were introduced by the PA [People's Alliance] government made these far reaching, positive changes in the political life of the people possible. Vigorous, concerted efforts have been initiated to arrest the political and social decay which were all too apparent before the PA and the president were voted to power.

There was a time when the law-enforcement authorities were granted almost unlimited powers under emergency regulations which were enforced over the entire length and breadth of this country.

Dozens of political activists, lawyers and dissenters of various persuasions 'disappeared' without a trace. And to add to it all many lived in dread of the midnight knock on the door.

This political culture of repression and fear has been rendered a thing of the past in the first year of the PA government. Emergency rule has been confined to a few, core operational areas. More important, power and authority at all levels in the law enforcement establishment, are being required to be used discretely, with a measure of accountability to the public. For instance, suspects can't be taken into custody without an arrest warrant. Receipts have to be issued by the authorities to parents or guardians of suspects once they are taken away, places of detention have to be notified.

An equally important measure was to set up commissions consisting of competent persons to probe disappearances during the 1989-'90 period of terror. One of the terms of reference of these commissions is to establish the whereabouts of these people who went missing.

In keeping with an election pledge, the PA government has also instituted a permanent commission to probe bribery and corruption charges against those holding public office, regardless of whether they are big or small.

President Kumaratunga's boldest and most imaginative move, however, comes in the form of the peace package she has put forward to end the wasting ethnic conflict in this country. Via enhanced devolution to the regions, this package promises to meet the legitimate needs of not only the Tamil minority but also of those confined to the margins of existence.

The democratic process in this country has been further strengthened by the PA government's efforts to bolster media freedom. Besides a colourful crop of newspapers, there are a number of privately-owned TV and radio stations in this country which are granted almost complete operational and editorial freedom. Some of these project the opposition point of view on the issues of the day.

President Kumaratunga has also very clearly improved the image of Sri Lanka abroad and won for her the backing of the international community in the country's fight against terror. It is after President Kumaratunga's successful effort at putting the record straight on issues pertaining to Sri Lanka with world leaders, that the international community is beginning to decry Tiger atrocities. Britain has now joined the US and Canada in taking the Tigers to task for the brutal killing of civilians.

Despite having initially misunderstood what was happening in this country, even the UN Secretary General has begun to realise that the situation in Northern Lanka doesn't warrant UN Security Council intervention. Only humanitarian assistance need be offered.

What really has happened in the first year of her office is laying the foundations on which the development process could grow, restoring confidence in the people that good government is still possible despite the dark 17 years. For this the country is grateful.

Minister Says Defense Budget Increase Due to War

BK0911141395 Colombo DAILY NEWS in English 9 Nov 95

[Unattributed report — received via Internet]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The escalating war with rebels of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) will raise Sri Lanka's defence spending to US$745 million.

Deputy Finance Minister G.L.Peiris on Wednesday [8 November] announced that the government would increase defence spending to Rs.[rupees] 38 billion (US$745 million) for the year 1996, from Rs.32 billion (US$627 million) in 1995.

Presenting the annual budget, he said increased military activity in the north including a series of offensives aimed at crushing the LTTE has already raised spending in 1995 from the originally estimated Rs.24 billion (US$470 million).

Sri Lankan troops engaged in Operation Riviresa are now consolidating their positions barely 4.5 km away from the rebel stronghold of Jaffna in the peninsula of the same name. Earlier, deputy defence minister Col. Anuruddha Ratwatte said that the military would "crush the Tigers and liberate Jaffna from the grip of the LTTE."

Col. Ratwatte said troops could take Jaffna in two days, but were proceeding cautiously to avoid civilian casualties.

Minister Peiris told the Parliament that the budget "is formulated under severe resources constraints as defence expenditure is expected to remain high during 1996."

Defence spending was revised earlier this year when Tamil rebels unilaterally ended a 100-day ceasefire and talks with the government by sinking a Navy boat at the Eastern port of Trincomalee. Fighting between the government troops and rebels has escalated since then.

No major incidents were reported from the North on Tuesday and Wednesday.

LTTE Said To Increase Conscription of Children

BK0811132995 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 0953 GMT 8 Nov 95

["Pool item"]

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] Colombo, 8 Nov (LANKAPUVATH) — The LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] has stepped up a drive to conscript school children to boost its fighting cadre which is in disarray following heavy casualties suffered during the Army's operation 'Riviresa' (sunrays), reports reaching Colombo from the north said.

They said 'recruitment centres' had been set up at various points in areas still controlled by the Tigers to recruit children as young as 12 to their ranks whose morale is reported at an all time low following sweeping gains made by the security forces.

Defense Sources in Colombo estimate that nearly 1,000 terrorists have lost their lives during the latest Army offensive. Another 3,000 will never fight again, having suffered serious injuries.

Hospitals in LTTE controlled areas are reported to be overflowing with injured LTTE cadres. "The lack of medicines, equipment and doctors have hampered their efforts to treat most of the cadres", the defense sources said.

They said the troops engaged in the operation were consolidating their positions and defenses before resuming the advance. [passage omitted]

LTTE Attacks Fuel Depot as Troops Approach Jaffna

BK1411052795 Hong Kong AFP in English 0512 GMT 14 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] COLOMBO, Nov 14 (AFP) — The Tamil guerrillas Tuesday [14 November] attacked an army fuel depot in eastern Sri Lanka and killed four soldiers as the army was poised to take the rebel- held town of Jaffna in the country's north, officials said.

Gunmen from the separatist Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) launched a pre-dawn attack against the military fuel station at Vandaramullai, but the raid was repulsed, defence officials said.

"Tigers failed in their mission, and we believe several of the attackers were either killed or wounded by the troops," a defence source here said. He added that a search operation was underway in the region.

The LTTE attack in the east came as thousands of soldiers backed by air and armoured cars moved closer to Jaffna town after capturing several Tiger military facilities Monday.

Several ammunition dumps and bomb-manufacturing facilities have fallen into the hands of the advancing army, a military spokesman said, adding that troops were just two kilometres (1.25 miles) away from Jaffna city limits.

"We were advancing in two columns and one came across stiff resistance. We are awaiting details of casualties," a military spokesman here said.

The latest army drive was launched nearly a month ago and has been described by the military as a fight to the finish to capture the entire Jaffna peninsula which had been ruled by the LTTE for the past five years.

At least 320 soldiers have been killed in the operation code- named Rivirasa (Sunshine) and more than 1,600 wounded. The military estimates LTTE losses at 1,400 killed.

The Tamil Tigers are leading a protracted campaign for independence in predominantly Sinhalese Sri Lanka's northern and eastern regions where the two million Tamil minority is concentrated.

Government Troops Reportedly Capture 'Key Town'

BK1411104695 Hong Kong AFP in English 1028 GMT 14 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] COLOMBO, Nov 14 (AFP) — Sri Lankan security forces captured a key town where Tamil Tiger guerrillas maintained their political headquarters in the northern Jaffna peninsula, a military spokesman said Tuesday [14 November].

Thousands of infantry troops backed by artillery and tanks stormed the town of Kondavil late Monday after hand-to-hand battles that left at least seven rebels and one soldier dead, the spokesman said here.

He said 28 soldiers were also wounded in the fighting. Security forces established control over the small but strategic town where the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] had set up its main offices since it began to rule Jaffna peninsula in 1990.

The army was pushing ahead with the offensive and had come with close proximity to the town of Jaffna, the capital of the LTTE's sprawling de facto state in Sri Lanka's north.

Official Says Tamil Civilians Aiding Defense Units

BK1411105395 Colombo DAILY NEWS in English 13 Nov 95

[Report by Ariyasena Manamendra — received via Internet]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tamil civilians in the south are giving unstinted co-operation to the civil defence units in maintaining peace in their respective areas. This will help the security forces to concentrate on their war against rebels in the north, said Civil Defence Force Commandant C.O.A. Direckze on Sunday [12 November].

He said Tamils constituted a majority membership in civil defence units in areas with a bigger concentration of Tamils and they willingly assist the police in peace keeping exercises such as night patrolling.

Direckze said all police stations have meanwhile mounted night patrols in their areas assisted by members of civil defence units.

He called upon trade unions attached to state departments, corporations, boards, co-operatives and private sector establishments to form civil defence units by themselves for the protection of their own institutions.

The commandant said the Civil Defence Force has published a special booklet in all three languages detailing measures to prevent possible terrorist attacks and to take necessary steps following any such catastrophe.

Those interested could obtain these booklets from the Civil Defence Force Headquarters at No. 11, Sir Baron Jayatilleke Mawatha, Fort, Colombo.

Editorial Hails Help to Defense Units

BK1411110095 Colombo DAILY NEWS in English 14 Nov 95

[Editorial: "Heartening change" — received via Internet]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] All peace-loving citizens are bound to welcome the news that Tamil civilians of the South are actively participating in the recently established civil defence units. Besides facilitating the task of maintaining law and order outside the war zones, such participation is likely to boost communal amity and strengthen the sense of fellowship among the ordinary citizenry.

A news report we frontpaged yesterday said that civil defence units in areas with a higher concentration of Tamil civilians, consisted mainly of such persons and that the latter were cooperating readily with the law enforcement authorities in peace keeping operations.

It is patently wrong for anyone to cast a suspicious eye on an entire community on account of the maniacal acts of a few of its members. Ideally, such a situation should be avoided. However, the recent implication of some persons of standing, including army officers and clergymen, in some grave violations of the law, makes the task of separating the "sheep" from the "wolves", an arduous one. These developments would make it obligatory on the part of the authorities to keep an eagle eye on everyone, embarrassing as it may be.

However by participating spontaneously and readily in the maintenance of law and order in the South, peace-loving Tamil civilians could forestall such consequences. They could clearly establish their bona fides and credentials as people who uphold the law of the land and say 'no' to violence.

Therefore, Tamil participation in civil defence units is a most welcome development which should put all amity-loving citizens at ease. The more the Tamil community integrates with the rest of the citizenry in the battle against terror, the greater the possibility that the hot heads and desperadoes will be alienated and left out of the fold of the peace-loving public. This will make the task of detecting and apprehending such elements easier.

It is to be hoped, then, that more and more peace-loving Tamil citizens would contribute their share to this all-important undertaking of keeping the peace in the country.

Our report also quoted Civil Defence Force Commandant, COA Direckze as saying that trade unions in public and private sector institutions should form civil defence units to protect life, limb and property in their respective establishments. This advice must be acted on as soon as possible.

Vigilance round-the-clock is the only defence against sudden terror attacks. This is the aim of forming civil defence units in every locality and institution. The terrorist requires absolute secrecy to implement his demonic plans. An alert citizenry, however, could deprive him of this instrument which is born of a citizenry's lassitude and complacency.

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